

Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting
held on Monday, 18 January 2016 at 10 am in the Municipal District Office,
Rathstewart, Athy

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

Apologies: Councillor I Keatley

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Mr J Coppinger (Senior Engineer), Mr G Duff (A/Senior Executive Officer), Mr G Perry (Senior Executive Officer), Mr M Kenny (Senior Planner), Ms P Hyland (Assistant Planner), Ms V Cooke and Mr B O'Gorman (Administrative Officers), Ms A Louw, Senior Staff Officer and Mr Dara Wyer, Environmental Awareness Officer, Ms A Aspell (Meetings Administrative) and Ms O Mooney (Secretary).

AY01/1601

Darkness into Light Walk

Mr Richard Daly, Principal, Athy College attended the meeting and briefed the members on the forthcoming "Darkness into Light Walk" which will take place on the 7 May 2016 starting at 4.15 am. Other venues for this walk are Naas and Carlow every year. He stated that up to 1,000 people are expected to participate. He reiterated that this walk was not just about mental health, it is about communities coming together. The members supported this walk and thanked Mr Daly for his attendance.

AY02/1601

To consider the Chief Executive's Report on submissions/observations on the proposed material alterations to the draft Monasterevin Local Area Plan 2015-2021.

Mr Kenny and Ms Hyland attended the meeting. Ms Hyland briefed the members and summarised the submissions received together with the Chief Executive's recommendations. The proposed material alterations to the Draft Monasterevin Local Area Plan were placed on public display from the 22 November 2015 until 22 December 2015. In total, eight

submissions were received on the proposed plan during the statutory period. All written submissions received were acknowledged. The members were informed that they had six weeks from the 14 January 2015 to adopt this plan.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Redmond that this matter be listed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Municipal District on 22 February 2016, and the meeting to begin at 9.30 a.m. Members to submit their proposals, if any, in advance of the meeting.

AY03/1601

Confirmation of Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the Athy Municipal District meeting held on 14 December 2015.

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

Matters Arising

Bridge at Kildangan (Train Tracks) (AY04/1506)

Councillor Redmond raised this issue and noted that a comprehensive report was circulated to the members on 12 January 2016. The estimated cost of the works planned would be in the region of €450,000. If members are in agreement, it was recommended that a full design and Part VIII procedure be undertaken, if the required funding can be identified. The report suggested that, this work was a possible local property tax scheme to be considered by the members. However, the members asked that funding be sought from the National Transport Authority (NTA) as it would take all local property tax monies available to fund this project.

Resolved that funding be sought from the National Transport Authority to commence the required design/works at this bridge.

Concerns of School Buses Using The Cush Inn area as collection point (AY12/1512)

Councillor Redmond noted report indicating that letters had issued to Bus Éireann and the Garda Commissioner. Copy of a reply from Bus Éireann was circulated to the members on 14 January 2016. However, a reply from the Garda Commissioner was awaited. Councillor Redmond stated that he had serious issues with the reply from Bus Éireann which stated that they had always found the pick-up point very suitable for any Public Service Vehicle in particular a large 53 seater vehicle to pull in and collect students safely.

Resolved that a second letter be issued to Bus Éireann voicing the concerns of the members and that a copy of the letter be sent to the Garda Commissioner.

Additional Emergency Accommodation for Women and Children within the Athy Municipal District (AY10/1512)

Councillor Redmond raised this issue and noted report indicating that homelessness was being reviewed and that Housing was not in a position to report at this juncture. The members were informed that a report would issue to them in due course. Councillor Redmond asked that this matter be brought to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee.

Resolved that this matter be referred to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee.

St. Michael's Cemetery, Athy (AY23/1509)

Councillor Redmond raised this issue and noted report indicating that tenders had been invited to carry out improvements to the footpaths and also to remove topsoil/subsoil to the rear of the cemetery. The District Manager stated that this project would come under the Capital Programme for 2016 with work to commence in the first quarter of this year. Councillor Miley asked that the small sweeper, on a once-off basis, be used to remove leaves from the cemetery. Councillor Dalton welcomed the works proposed and he asked that the issue of the wall along the entrance to the cemetery be included in this proposed work. The cathaoirleach thanked the District Manager for work done to date and agreed that the wall had deteriorated and also that flooding issues in the cemetery need to be monitored. The District Engineer stated that he would liaise with the Environment Section regarding the clearing of leaves in the cemetery.

Resolved that the District Engineer liaise with the Environment Section with regard to using the small sweeper to clear leaves in the cemetery and that the issue of the wall at the entrance of the cemetery be looked at and that flooding issues be monitored in the cemetery.

Upgrade of Emily Square, Athy (AY21/1510)

Councillor Breslin raised this issue stating that she was aware of an accident recently where an elderly person fell in the Square. The District Manager said that he understands the urgency and he hoped that consultants would be appointed by the February Municipal District meeting, adding that it was unlikely that works would start in 2016 due to timescale and cost factors. The District Engineer stated that tree roots were causing the problems on footpaths around the Square and that an interim solution would be to remove all the trees in the Square.

Resolved that the District Engineer contact a Tree Surgeon and come back to the members with costings.

Community CCTV in the Woodstock Area of Athy (AY18/1509)

Councillor Breslin raised this issue and noted report stating that the District Manager would raise this matter with Senior Management Team at their next meeting in order to identify the service area responsible and to identify budget to re-activate the CCTV in this area.

Councillor Breslin stated that she was deeply disappointed about this reply as the members had been told that this matter was to be raised with the Senior Management Team at their last meeting in December. She stated that the Gardaí are anxious to work with the Council in alleviating dumping and anti-social behaviour issues and progress had been delayed because CCTV cameras were still out of action.

Resolved that the District Manager would bring this matter to Senior Management at their next meeting in order to identify the service area responsible and to identify budget to re-activate the CCTV in the Woodstock area.

Expansion of Crookstown Cemetery (AY24/1509)

Councillor Miley raised this issue and noted report indicating that the Environment Section was co-ordinating the preparation of a design for the proposed extension. The final design would be the subject of a formal Part VIII proposal.

Resolved that report be noted and members to be kept informed of progress.

Environmental Programme 2016 – PURE Mile (AY27/1510)

Mr Wyer stated that a need was identified in 2015 by Councillor Miley to encourage community groups to participate in a scheme to look after rural areas in terms of littering and general care. As the national Tidy Towns competition specifically caters for towns and villages, it was decided to run a pilot scheme specifically for groups looking after these rural areas. He stated that following the model of the Pure Mile Scheme being run in the Wicklow mountains, a competition called “Kildare Green Kilometre” was being devised to encourage groups to adopt a kilometre stretch of road in their area and work to enhance it. This would consist of a number of elements such as ongoing litter removal, hedge maintenance and planting of native trees, shrubs and flowers, restoration of any features (e.g. old farm gates) and identifying road signage that needs to be installed, cleaned, replaced or removed. Groups would be invited to enter the competition by submitting a brief application and a sketch map of the chosen kilometre. The Athy Municipal District had committed €1,000 to

the competition and the Environment Section would commit a further €1,000 for this pilot phase of the competition. It was anticipated that all entrants would receive a prize of some description as this would encourage other groups to participate should the competition be extended to the other municipal districts in subsequent years. Mr Wyer stated that this competition would only succeed if it was subscribed to. Therefore, it would be very helpful if the members would promote it with rural community groups in their area. The application form would be finalised in the near future and would be distributed to all the members as well as the municipal district office.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Wall that €1,000 be allocated to this initiative.

New Cemetery in Churchtown (AY23/1509)

The cathaoirleach raised this issue and noted report indicating that design of proposed extension was being prepared. The finished design would be the subject to a formal Part VIII proposal.

Resolved that the District Manager would bring the finished design to the February meeting.

Location of Ernest Shackleton Sculpture (AY11/1507)

The cathaoirleach raised this issue and noted report indicating that the council recently commissioned sculpture Mark Richards to make a permanent sculpture of Ernest Shackleton for Athy. It was hoped that a meeting with relevant parties and the artist would take place in the coming weeks. The Arts Officer would like to make a presentation to the meeting about the sculpture at the February meeting of the municipal district. It was hoped that the sculpture would be installed and officially unveiled in late August 2016, to coincide with the 100 years anniversary of when Shackleton rescued his men from Elephant Island.

Resolved that Ms Russell attend the next meeting to give her presentation on the matter.

Promotional Brochure and Regional Aid to Business Grant for the south of the county (AY08/1512)

The cathaoirleach raised this matter and noted report that Ms Kavanagh would come back to the members later in the year with an update. He stated that it was unacceptable and he cannot wait until the end of the year and that the matter needed to be raised at Senior Management Team Meeting. He stated that he would contact Ms Kavanagh directly in this regard.

Resolved that the cathaoirleach would contact Ms Kavanagh directly and that the matter remain on the progress report.

Dumping – Townspark, Athy (AY23/1512)

Councillor Redmond raised this matter and noted report indicating that the area would be jointly inspected by Environment (Litter Warden), Parks Superintendent and Housing to assess options to deter dumping at this location. The District Manager stated that he had no further update in this regard but he stated that the last clean-up cost €10,000. The Cathaoirleach stated that a permanent solution needs to be identified and that CCTV cameras would be a help in this regard.

Resolved that report be noted and that a permanent solution be identified. Members to be kept informed of progress.

Proposed Public Car park in Kildangan (AY15/1509)

The District Engineer circulated a drawing of the proposed layout of the carpark to the members and outlined the plan. The cathaoirleach and members thanked Kildangan Stud for providing this land to the council and noted that National Transport Authority (NTA) funding would need to be sought. The proposed carpark would be important to Kildangan as it would alleviate traffic problems. The District Engineer stated that the costing for this project would be in the region of €250,000.

Resolved that funding be sought from the National Transport Authority to provide the proposed public car park in Kildangan.

Proposed Crèche Site and Céide Diarmada - Ard na Laoí (AY09/1409)

The cathaoirleach raised this issue and asked for an update. The District Manager stated that the crèche site was no longer derelict and the other two sites were cleared. The Environment Section was examining the matter.

Resolved that report be noted and that the members be kept informed.

Pedestrian Bridge, Athy (AY13/1512)

Councillor Wall raised this issue and asked for an update on the matter.

The District Manager stated that he and the Director of Roads Transportation and Public Safety met recently with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and it was agreed to meet them again in regard to this bridge in February 2016.

Resolved that the members be informed of progress.

AY04/1601

To consider request for receipt of deputation from Monasterevin Youth Group

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Redmond that the deputation be invited to the February meeting of the Municipal District.

AY05/1601

Update on Progress on the Southern Distributor Road

Mr Coppinger updated the members on the progress of this project. He was currently reviewing the information from the public consultation and he stated that the main issue which arose was the route plan. He stated he would bring this stage to completion and the next stage would be to go to the next public consultation in February 2016. Councillor Redmond asked how many submissions were received. He stated that during the last public consultation, he found it hard to get solid information and he asked that more information would be available for the next public consultation. Mr Coppinger added that he would come back to the members with information regarding the number of submissions received. Mr Coppinger stated that he was surprised by Councillor Redmond's comments as his team gave as much information as was possible at the time. A special meeting had been arranged to brief the members, which gave a clear and transparent view on matters. He did acknowledge that the drawings were not up on the website initially, but that was later rectified. Mr Coppinger added that he was conscious of sporting groups in the town who have issues and they would be taken into consideration.

Councillor Miley stated that the update was encouraging and he acknowledged that Mr Coppinger would be taking the sporting groups' issues into consideration.

Resolved that this matter remain on the agenda and members update at their next meeting.

AY06/1601

Progress Report - Schedule of Municipal District Works

The District Engineer circulated report to the members outlining the following works;

- Drainage in Clogheen had been completed on R445 and L7054
- Completion of Bus Shelter/footpath improvements in Monasterevin
- Drainage works and bag provision in and around Athy, Monasterevin and the rest of the Municipal District
- Drainage issue at Glasshealy improved.
- Drainage issue at Jerusalem improved.

- Drainage issue at Castleroe improved.
- Comprehensive drainage maintenance operations undertaken throughout the south of the county.

Councillor Miley thanked the Civil Defence and the Council for their work during the recent flooding issues.

Resolved that report be noted.

AY07/1601

Control of Horses Bye-Laws

Mr O’Gorman briefed the members regarding the proposed Control of Horses Bye-Laws particularly with regard to issues in urban areas. The District Manager re-iterated that the report given today was only for information purposes at present and that it had been discussed at length by the Environmental Services and Water Strategic Policy Committee. A pilot scheme for Athy and one for Newbridge is proposed, and the bye-laws could subsequently be rolled out to other towns. These bye-laws would prevent people from keeping horses in urban areas.

Resolved that this matter be listed on the agenda for the February meeting.

AY08/1601

Voluntary Housing Associations

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

That the Council confirm the number of voluntary housing associations that they are working within the Athy area and throughout the county, and whether the Council is in negotiations with any of these voluntary bodies to build houses in the Athy area or indeed to further enter into lease agreements with them to secure social housing.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Wall and seconded by Councillor Breslin.

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that there are a significant number of approved housing bodies operating in County Kildare at present. A number of approved housing bodies are responsible for units under the Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme which was no longer in operation and the Capital Assistance Scheme for special needs housing. In respect of the newer schemes, i.e. social leasing, to date, the following approved housing bodies have delivered units; Cill Dara Housing Association, Cill

UrníHousing Association, Clúid Housing, Focus Ireland, KARE, Oaklee Housing and Tuath Housing Association.

These approved housing bodies, together with a number of others have also engaged with developers with a view to delivering additional units and the members would be advised on further development in this regard. The Council has held discussions with a number of approved housing bodies in respect of the delivery of units on Council owned land to complement a number of schemes being delivered by the Council and already approved by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. The use of the approved housing bodies to deliver schemes would greatly enhance the volume of units delivered under the Housing Strategy 2020 and would maximise the availability of funding through both capital and current exchequer funding.

Two sites had been identified in the Athy Municipal District for delivery by approved housing bodies namely, (a) Dominican site and (b) Flinters Field.

(a) The Council have been in contact with three approved housing bodies with respect to feasibility and design to deliver some housing. Discussions are ongoing and a further report would issue at the February municipal meeting.

(b) The Council have held discussions with Respond Housing Association in respect of Flinter's Field and anticipate coming back to the members in Quarter 1 2016.

Councillor Miley stated that he had concerns in regard to Flinter's Field and whether it was suitable for social housing. He suggested that a park would be more suitable and maybe to construct housing in a more appropriate location in order to build a community. Mr Perry replied that any changes would be a decision for the Council through the Part VIII procedure.

In relation to the Dominican Friary House, Mr Perry stated that family units would be available here and he has asked various voluntary groups to look at it and he would come back to the members with the proposal which would have the building available in the shortest possible time by the end of March 2016.

In relation to Oaklee Housing, Councillor Breslin asked whether there were discussions with them and asked whether there would be housing units in the Castledermot area. She stated that Housing Co-operatives give no incentive to people to purchase a property. Mr Perry stated that this was a national issue.

The cathaoirleach stated that the Council need to put either housing or a park in Flinter's Field to stop dumping and illegal encampments.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Breslin that the District Manager would give a further update with regard to the Dominican site and that Mr Perry would give a further update regarding the Dominican Friary House as soon as proposal is received and would keep the members updated with regard to Flinter's Field.

AY09/1601

Delivery of Houses – Athy Municipal District

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Redmond:
How many council houses were built by this council in the last five years in our municipal district and can we please be given a map of our municipal district with the sites the council looked at for building on this year?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that prior to the announcement of the Housing Strategy 2020 funding was not available for the construction of social housing units and there was, therefore, no capital delivery. Since the announcement of the Housing Strategy 2020, the Council initially concentrated, as an immediate response, on house purchases, delivery of units through approved housing bodies and the procurement of consultants through framework agreements to progress building. Ten units were developed at Woodstock Lodge, Athy in 2012 and ten derelict units were returned to use in Athy in 2015. All land in the ownership of the Council had been considered for its build potential. It was not possible to provide a map of all land holdings in the Council's ownership in the municipal district. However, the members would be informed of any firm proposals for the use of sites for social housing.

Councillor Redmond asked what sites the Council had looked at and whether there was a plan of how many houses were going to be built as no houses had been built in the last five years. He asked for a map and plan of houses being developed in the municipal district. Mr Perry stated that the Council were currently looking at the issue on a countywide basis under the Housing Strategy 2020. He added that the Council were endeavouring to maximise the amount of houses it would build.

Councillor Redmond stated that the housing situation needs to be identified for each of the five municipal districts.

Resolved that this matter be referred to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee regarding delivery of houses in the municipal district and the members agreed.

AY10/1601

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

The District Manager gave a brief update to the members indicating that he had a meeting with Irish Water recently. They have agreed to connect Oak Park to the Waste Water Treatment Plant and in the interim, arrangements would be put in place to tanker the estate this week. In response to a query from Councillor Miley, the District Manager confirmed that tankering occurred over the Christmas period.

Resolved that the members be kept updated and matter remain on the agenda.

AY11/1601

Full Assessment of sewage smells in the town of Castledermot

The members considered the following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor Miley: That the council do a full assessment of the sewage smells in the town of Castledermot and suspend all property tax and commercial rates collection until this issue is resolved.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Miley and seconded by Councillor Wall.

The District Manager gave the members a brief update indicating that he had met with local residents and he had consulted with Building Control, Irish Water, Water Services and the Environment Section and they were all working together to bring this matter to a conclusion. He stated that works had been carried out on the pumps and an assessment had been carried out on the public network and no problems were found. He added that there were a lot of resources being put into this to alleviate the problem. Councillor Miley stated that he appreciated all the work that was being done to sort this problem out as the current situation was unliveable and urged that the work be brought to a resolution as soon as possible. The District Manager stated that he would continue to keep the members informed of progress.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley and seconded by Councillor Wall that this matter be resolved as quickly as possible and that the members be kept informed of progress.

AY12/1601

Re-Establish a Graveyard Committee for Tubberara Graveyard

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

Can the Council in conjunction with the local community re-establish a Graveyard Committee for Tubberara Graveyard?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that Councillor Breslin and members may be able to assist in providing contacts to re-establish previous arrangements. The cemetery would also be examined to determine if it was in charge of the Council.

The District Manager stated that he would discuss this matter with Councillor Breslin and also other graveyards need to be looked into as well.

Resolved that the District Manager would discuss this matter with Councillor Breslin.

AY13/1601

Taking in Charge of Corran Árd and Branswood Estates, Athy

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

That the Council update its members on the taking in charge of Corran Árd and Branswood estates, Athy (given the recent issues with boundaries in the estate, what can be done to secure these for the residents).

The motion was proposed by Councillor Wall and seconded by Councillor Dalton.

A report was received from the Building Control Section informing the members that the taking in charge of Corran Árd cannot be completed until the estate was completed to a satisfactory standard and the necessary documentation (CCTV surveys and ACDs) was provided by the developer. With regard to Branswood, Building/Development Control Section was dealing with the developer of this site to resolve the sewerage problem in the estate which was affecting a resident in Corran Árd. When this issue is resolved, Building/Development Control will engage with the developer to have all outstanding works completed and documentation submitted to facilitate the taking in charge of this estate. It should be pointed out that the Council does not take garden boundary walls in charge, they remain the responsibility of the house owner.

The cathaoirleach stated there were problems in both estates with sewerage problems. In relation to Corran Árd, he added that there are problems with the boundary wall and Building Control need to intervene here as it cannot be left in the current condition. The builder needs to be contacted and wall repaired.

The District Manager stated that in relation to the wall, it had been formally inspected and remedial works would need to be done. He stated that the Council had a commitment from the developer to solve the problem. In relation to the sewerage issues, the problem was the pump and it was currently being rectified. Building Control would be looking at all issues and would be arranging CCTV surveys to sort out the problems permanently as the current situation was unacceptable. He added that he would keep the members informed of progress.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Dalton, that report be noted and that the members be kept informed of progress.

AY14/1601

Accommodation – Dragon Boat and Associated Equipment

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

In light of the removal of the Dragon Boat racing facilities in the town of Athy, can the Council work collectively with the Dragon Boat Race Team to ensure that they have a permanent home to store equipment and to maximise the Dragon Boat Race potential for Athy Town and County Kildare?

A report was received from Mr Syl Merrins, Co-ordinator Kildare Sports Partnership informing the members that Kildare Sports Partnership would like to acknowledge the work of the Dragon Boat Race team and the potential that the Dragon Boat Race had, not just in getting people involved in sport and physical activity, but also increasing the number of visitors to the town. The role of Kildare Sports Partnership was to increase participation in sport and physical activity and limited funding was directed towards increasing this participation by increasing capacity in clubs and upskilling coaches etc. Unfortunately, no funding was available for capital expenditure but any efforts to help the Dragon Boat Race Team in their work would be supported.

Councillor Miley stated that this was one real success story for Athy as we had All-Ireland Champions in the town. They had inspired people to use the Barrow again during the

summer months. He added that the Dragon Boat Committee had also called to the schools in the town promoting the sport. The boat in question was 45 foot long and transportation was very difficult. They have a container currently to secure the boat on a temporary basis. However, he called on the District Manager to find a permanent home for the dragon boat and associated equipment.

The cathaoirleach stated that he was delighted to hear that the Dragon Boat Festival would happen again this year and all members supported this.

Resolved that the Council would research secure permanent accommodation for the Dragon Boat and associated equipment by March 2016 and the members agreed.

AY15/1601

Athy Twinning Committee – Strategy to 2018

Mr Tom Kearney and Mr Derek Ahearne circulated their long-term programme to the members on their strategy up to 2018 to encourage various Associations in both Athy and Grandvilliers to seek common cause with their counterparts and to discuss promotional ideas to make people in both towns more aware of the project. Under sports, cultural, social, educational, economic and funding headings, the committee would endeavour to build on the success to date. The committee recommended that the chair of the Athy Municipal District be a representative on the Athy Twinning Committee. Mr Kearney stated that the 100th Birthday of the Battle of the Somme would take place on the 17 April 2016 and four representatives from Athy are invited to attend.

The cathaoirleach thanked the Twinning Committee for their dedicated work to date and agreed with the importance of being twinned with Grandvilliers. He added that the Council are considering inviting Grandvilliers Committee to join them for the St. Patrick's Day Festival 2016. The District Manager stated that he was currently drafting a letter of invitation to issue in this regard.

The members stated that they wished to be associated with the words of the cathaoirleach and asked that the Twinning Committee would give the members an update every six months. The District Manager stated that he was very impressed with the Twinning Programme and that the members would be kept informed.

Resolved that the District Manager issue a letter of invitation to Grandvilliers Committee to join the members for St. Patrick's Day Festival 2016 and that the members be kept informed of progress with regard to Athy Twinning.

AY16/1601

Traffic Calming Measures between the GAA Pitch and town of Castledermot

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

That this Council immediately take steps to develop traffic calming measures between the GAA pitch and town of Castledermot as a matter of utter safety.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Redmond and seconded by Councillor Miley.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this road was within the 50kph speed limit area. There are no plans for traffic calming measures from the GAA pitch to the town of Castledermot in the current year.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Miley that the District Engineer would ask Road Design to put speed testing equipment on this road and complete a speed survey.

AY17/1601

Provision of Additional Public Lighting at Gorteenoon, Monasterevin

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

That consideration be given to the provision of additional public lighting at Gorteenoon, Monasterevin.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Dalton and seconded by Councillor Redmond.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Public Lighting Unit would assess the street lighting at this location and report back to the members.

Councillor Dalton stated that this area was a busy area. A discussion ensued, and the members agreed that public lighting repairs are taking too long. The members agreed that a policy needs to be established particularly to help elderly people living in rural areas.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dalton, seconded by Councillor Redmond, that a Public Lighting Policy in rural areas be put in place and that Airtricity be contacted to find out how long it takes to repair lighting.

AY18/1601

Suspension of Standing Orders

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Miley that standing orders be suspended for fifteen minutes to continue the meeting.

AY19/1601

Signage – Maganey, Athy

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

Due to the fact that several times on an annual basis the roadway at Maganey floods extensively, as it is on the flood plains of the Barrow, that signage be erected to warn and indicate same.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Breslin and seconded by Councillor Dalton.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Municipal District Office intends to erect permanent poles on both approaches to the flooded section of road at Maganey. Signs can then be erected on these poles when the road floods.

Councillor Breslin welcomed the report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Dalton, that report be noted.

AY20/1601

Allocation of Funding to allow the construction of the Footpath on the Carlow Road from Coneyboro to Ardreigh

The members agreed to consider items 10 and 18 of the agenda together;
Breslin and Wall:

Item 10 - Motion – Councillor Breslin

That we ensure that the National Transportation Authority prioritises the allocation of funding to allow the construction of the footpath on the Carlow Road from Coneyboro to Ardreigh.

Item 18 - Question – Councillor Wall

Can the Council confirm the projects that they have been short-listed for NTA funding for this year, including those for Athy, do these include the extension of the footpath to the graveyard in Castledermot, the pedestrian bridge in Athy, Carlow Road, Athy or can all councillors submit their priority projects as a matter of urgency?

The motion was proposed by Councillor Breslin and seconded by Councillor Wall.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that a meeting with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the Director of Roads Transportation and Public Safety to secure funding for 2016 had commenced. A limited amount of funding had been made available to the NTA to allocate under the Traffic Management Grants Programme and this funding was being prioritised for projects which have a contractual commitment. There was a current list of more than eighty projects (including that indicated in this Motion) for which the Council was seeking funding. Additional projects can be added to the list but it was expected that a very limited number of new projects would receive funding from the NTA.

In relation to the construction of the footpath on the Carlow Road from Coneyboro to Ardreich, Councillor Breslin stated that this was one of the major projects that needs to be prioritised. This matter had been raised many times at meetings over at least the last ten years. She stated that she was unhappy with the report given.

The cathaoirleach stated that he had not seen the list of works requiring NTA funding and requested that a copy of this list be circulated to the members. He welcomed funding from the NTA for other projects but the Carlow Road works need to be prioritised. Councillor Miley supported the other members, and added that there was no lighting or footpaths on this road. In relation to bridge and carpark in Kildangan, the cathaoirleach stated that he hopes these projects are on the list of works.

The District Engineer stated that all the projects referred to were on the list for NTA funding. He said he would check the bridge at Kildangan as he was unsure in that regard. He added that the Council were not in control of the NTA, in that we put in our applications and they decide what projects to progress.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Wall, that report be noted and that the list of works requiring NTA funding be circulated to the members.

AY21/1601

Suspension of Standing Orders

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dalton, seconded by Councillor Wall that standing orders be suspended for a further fifteen minutes to continue the meeting.

AY22/1601

Application for Funding for Flood Alleviation Works at houses that had flooding issues in Levitstown, Riverstown, Blackrath and Prumplestown

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

That the Council apply immediately to the relevant department for funding for flood alleviation works at houses that had flooding issues in Levitstown, Riverstown, Blackrath and Prumplestown.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Miley and seconded by Councillor Breslin.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the five Municipal District Engineers were currently compiling a list of public infrastructure that was damaged as a result of recent incidents of flooding during December and January. Once the estimated costs of such damage were available, a submission would be made to the Department of the Environment Community and Local Government. The Municipal District Engineer would examine each of the locations indicated to identify the causes of each incident and to generate a costed solution.

Councillor Miley asked whether funding can be sought for this work. The meetings administrator stated that there was information on the council's website regarding funding sources.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Breslin, that report be noted.

AY23/1601

Alleviation of Flooding on the following roads; Hughestown L8052, Ballyshannon to Crockaun L8006, and Knockpatrick L8096

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

That the Council work to alleviate the flooding issues on the following roads Hughestown L8052, Ballyshannon to Crockaun L8006, and Knockpatrick L8096.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Miley and seconded by Councillor Dalton.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that these roads are prone to flooding during wet weather. There was an added problem in recent weeks with roads crumbling due to saturated ground water levels. These works would be assimilated into the Municipal District Office drainage works for the coming year.

Councillor Miley thanked the District Engineer and his staff for work done during the recent flooding. He stated that there was work carried out already on the River Lerr which was successful but the Council would have to concentrate on flood alleviation works. He added that he welcomed the District Engineer putting together a proposal to get this done as soon as possible. The District Engineer stated he had compiled a list of vulnerable flooding areas. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Dalton, that report be noted.

AY24/1601

Review of Parking Bye-Laws

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

Can we review the parking bye laws for a number of reasons; to help commercial business owners by lowering their charge as rates are going up, to develop bus stops and to decide on the fate of parking in the Dominicans as well as other issues?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the current pay parking bye laws can be reviewed, if the members are in agreement. As each town is required to have appointed taxi stands the review of the pay parking bye laws should also identify a location for appointed taxi stands. However, Roads

Transportation and Public Safety would advise that a review should not be undertaken until the land at the Dominicans is identified.

Councillor Redmond stated that the last review was three or four years ago and that a review was now required.

Resolved that the following item be listed on the agenda for the April Meeting – “Review of Parking Bye-Laws”.

AY25/1601

Suspension of Standing Orders

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Dalton that standing orders be suspended for an additional fifteen minutes to continue the meeting.

AY26/1601

Proposed Re-surfacing at Woodstock Street – Dooley’s Terrace

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

Can an update be given on the proposed resurfacing at Woodstock Street, in particular at Dooley’s Terrace?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the whole of Woodstock Street (R428) from the N78 to the Ballintubbert Road (L4006) requires complete new infrastructure. In the opinion of the Municipal District Engineer, this area would require a design and substantial finance to undertake improvement works. The timescale of the work was dependent on the availability of finance.

Resolved that report be noted.

AY27/1601

Funding for Essential Works to prevent flooding in Clonmullion, Athy

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

Can the Council confirm that funding will be made available in 2016 to carry out essential works to prevent flooding in Clonmullion, Athy?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that this would be assessed in the context of the work programme for the Barrow Drainage District. There

was funding available for ongoing maintenance works. It would also be looked at in the context of the CFRAM (Catchment Flood Risk and Management) Study.

Resolved that report be noted.

AY28/1601

Flooding in the Vicinity of Churchtown National School, Athy

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

Can the Council investigate and find a solution to the flooding in vicinity of Churchtown National School, Athy?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the flooding on the road opposite Churchtown School was a result of development being undertaken by the school. This work can be assimilated into the Municipal District Office drainage works for the coming year.

Resolved that report be noted.

AY29/1601

Assessment of the Lighting on Church Road, Athy

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

Can the Council do an assessment of the lighting on Church Road, Athy and place new lighting where required?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Public Lighting Unit would undertake an assessment of the street lighting at this location and would report back to the members.

Councillor Miley stated that a light had been repaired on the Crescent part of Church Road adding that another area on Church Road needs a new light installed.

Resolved that report be noted.

AY30/1601

Unspent Local Property Tax from 2015

The meetings administrator advised the members that Mr Simon Wallace requested that the unspent local property tax (LPT) allocation of €10,000 for Castledermot Playground be

carried over to 2016. She stated that LPT monies for 2016 should be finalised before the end of January 2016 and would be brought to the February meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Breslin, that any unspent LPT monies from 2015, be accrued to 2016.

AY31/1601

Vote of Sympathy

Councillor Dalton wished to pass a vote of sympathy for Sr. Carmel O'Leary, Sister of Mercy from the town and all members asked to be associated with the vote of sympathy.

The meeting then concluded.
