

**Minutes of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District Meeting  
held at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 21 June 2017  
in the Council Chamber, Aras Chill Dara**

**Members Present:** Councillors M Stafford (Mayor), M Aspell, M McCabe,  
P Kennedy, J Pender, S Doyle, M Lynch, F McLoughlin Healy, S Power

**Present:** Mr T McDonnell (District Manager), Ms E Wright, Mr L Dunne and Mr G Halton (Senior Executive Officers), Mr D Hughes (Municipal District Engineer), Mr W Hannigan (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr B Martin, (Administrative Officer), Mr S Cunningham (Staff Officer), Mr C O'Toole, (Assistant Staff Officer), Ms M McIvor (Meetings Administrator) and Ms A M Campbell (Meetings Secretary).

**KN01/0617**

**Suspension of Standing Orders**

On the proposal of Councillor Lynch, seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by all the members that the Mayor suspend standing orders at 10.00 a.m. for five minutes to allow an in committee meeting to finish.

On the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and agreed by all the members that the Mayor suspend standing orders at 10.05 a.m. for a further five minutes to allow the in committee meeting to finish.

On the proposal of Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor Lynch and agreed by all the members that the Mayor suspend standing orders until 10.30 a.m.

**KN02/0617**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 17 May 2017, the minutes of the special meeting held on the 29 May 2017, together with the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Kennedy that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 17 May 2017 and the minutes of the special meeting held on the 29 May 2017, be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

**KN03/0617**

**Matters Arising**

**Local Property Tax (LPT) Funding**

Mr L Dunne distributed a copy of the report on the Tidy Towns Local Property Tax (LPT) payments for 2017 to the members.

The Mayor proposed an increase of the allocation of LPT funding to Allenwood Tidy Towns from €500 to €3,000. The Mayor further proposed the allocation of the balance of LPT funding of €30,256 to be divided equally among the 8 Tidy Town Groups giving an additional allocation of €3,782 to each group.

Councillor Pender noted that the members should have been made aware in advance of their original meeting to decide amounts and allocation of monies, that the resources were not there to handle their requests.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy requested a discussion and review in advance of their proposals for allocations of funding for 2018, so that the same thing would not happen again next year.

Mr L Dunne undertook to take the members comments back to the Director of Service for Environment and Water Services.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by all the members that the allocation of LPT funding to Allenwood Tidy Town be increased to €3,000 and the balance of €30,256 be divided equally among the 8 Tidy Town Groups allocating an additional €3,782 to each.

**Walkway at Moore Avenue (KN02/1603), (KN04/1604), (KN03/1701) & (KN02/0517)**

In response to Councillor Doyle's request, Ms E Wright stated that the ownership of the land was now clear and the drawing was being prepared but that she could not commit to a timeframe for the closure of this walkway.

Councillor Doyle suggested that if there was no resolution by September this year that the council should revert to implementing a solution that does not involve other land owners. The Mayor suggested that if Councillor Doyle wished, she could submit her proposal as a motion for the July meeting.

**Works started on Athgarvan Road.**

In response to Councillor Aspell's question as to whether works were started on site on the Athgarvan Road, the District Manager confirmed that they had started clearing the site but the contract was not yet been formally awarded.

**Closure of Public roadways, The Curragh (KN13/1612) & (KN02/0417)**

Councillor Lynch requested that based on the information that he circulated to the members in May, that the council write a strongly worded follow up letter to the Department of Defence.

**KN04/0617**

**Update on the Municipal District Road Works.**

The Municipal District Engineer gave a comprehensive report which had been circulated to the members on the Municipal District Road Works in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District. The Municipal District Engineer's update covered road improvement works in Kildare Town and Newbridge, the surface dressing programme for 2017 and the assistance given by the Kildare-Newbridge Area Office to the JuneFest committee.

Councillor Doyle thanked the Municipal District Engineer for the road works which were carried out by his team at night time and for all the hard work and assistance given by the Municipal District Area Office team to the JuneFest committee and asked if something could be done about the uneven shores outside the bank which could be a trip hazard.

The Municipal District Engineer stated that all iron works and kerbing would be addressed on completion of works.

**KN05/0617**

**Date of the Annual Meeting**

The members agreed to hold their annual meeting on Wednesday the 19 July at 10.00 a.m. in the council chamber, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Co. Kildare.

**KN06/0617**

**Time taken to repair houses taken back in charge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Aspell  
How long does it take for the council to repair council houses that have been taken back in charge before they are back on the live list again?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that 15.8 weeks is the average length of time from the date when a property becomes vacant to the commencement of a new tenancy. This figure is extracted from the 2016 Performance Indicator report.

The report was noted.

**KN07/0617**

**Works to be done in Lourdesville**

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

Can the council please outline exactly what works are to be done in Lourdesville on the shared backyard service, when are these works proposed to begin and how will it affect the residents of Lourdesville?

A report was received from the Water Services Department informing the members that the works referred to is an Irish Water project. A briefing has been forwarded to the members. Any further requests for information should be sent directly to Irish Water who can be contacted via the dedicated Irish Water Local Representatives email or phone line, the details of which are :Email: [localrepsupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepsupport@water.ie) Ph: 1890 178178 or 01 7072854.

In response to Councillor Pender's request for clarification on the briefing from Irish Water the District Manager read the email received from Irish Water for the members and stated that a copy could be provided by Water Services if requested and any further details could be sought by using the contact details provided in the report.

The report was noted.

**KN08/0617**

**Upgrade of council heating systems in homes**

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

Can the council advise what plans if any are in place to upgrade council heating systems in homes, and advise of plans to replace windows and doors in homes in the municipal district?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that in 2017 Kildare County Council will carry out window/door replacements in two houses in the kildare municipal district. In 2016 a total of 88 households received window/door replacements in the municipal district area. Presently there is no central heating installation programme,

however the council has written to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government highlighting this issue and enquiring if it is the intention of the Department to make funds available for the retro-fitting of central heating in local authority homes. Members will be informed of the response. In the absence of a positive response the members may wish to consider making provision for the scheme in the 2018 budget. An approximate cost per house is €5,500. In the meantime Housing Maintenance will deal with these issues on a case-by-case basis as houses become vacant subject to budget provision. Twenty-eight households in the municipal district area availed of the Self Help Scheme in 2016, the majority of grants were made available for the replacement of window and doors; 26 households in the municipal district have been included in the 2017 Self Help Scheme. The scheme is supporting the following works: Windows and Doors, Stoves/Heating Upgrade, Kitchens. Households receive a grant of 90% of the cost of works up to a maximum of €2,500.

Councillor Lynch sought further clarification on how people are being made aware of these schemes, the uptake of these schemes in the other municipal districts and when funding would be made available for the retro-fitting of central heating in local authority homes.

The District Manager confirmed that the schemes are advertised by local media in newspapers, that he would revert back to the members with the figures for the other municipal district areas and he would report back to the members when a response was received from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in relation to the provision of funding for the retro-fitting of central heating in local authority homes.

The report was noted.

#### **KN09/0617**

##### **Update on riverside walkway from St. Conleth's Bridge to Newbridge College**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Power  
That the council agree to prioritise the bridge underpass and the upgrading of the riverside walkway from St. Conleth's Bridge to Newbridge College, and that an outline be given on the expected progress to be made on the project this year.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Stafford.

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that it is proposed to develop the section from the Liffey Linear Park under St. Conleths Bridge to the pedestrian steps which link back to the roadside path at Canning Place. The approximate cost will be indicated once the detail design for the scheme has been prepared and costed and before any works commence. The members will be kept updated.

Councillor Power stated that this is a great facility for young and old, that there is always a hive of activity there, that JuneFest was proof of that and that it was vital to explore ways of developing this area to its full potential. He requested that the members be kept updated.

In response to Councillor Power's question the District Manager stated that he did not know when the design would be available but that this matter would be kept on the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Stafford that this matter be kept on the Progress Report.

### **KN10/0617**

#### **Request to contact the Royal Irish Architects Institute (RIAI)**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McCabe  
In light of the delay in appointing an urban design architect with the allocated Local Property Tax (LPT) funds, that the council consider initiating contact with the Royal Irish Architects Institute (RIAI), who are champions of exemplary practice in architecture and urbanism with a view to starting our urban design plans.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McCabe, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy.

The District Manager informed the members that the council had made contact with the Royal Irish Architects Institute (RIAI) and were informed that they had a scheme in place where they made newly qualified architects available. The District Manager stated that it was decided to put this on hold and proceed through an open recruitment process to acquire a more experienced candidate.

Councillor McCabe stated that he was delighted that there was some progress and hoped that this could be expedited and asked if experience of urban design was in the competition brief.

The District Manager informed the members that the competition qualifications were approved by the Department but that he would see the Curriculum Vitae's (CV)'s of the successful applicants and note their previous experience. The District Manager stated that there were conflicting demands on the Architect's Department who had people with this experience currently working there and it might allow them to be released to this project when a new person is employed.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor McCabe, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the report be noted.

### **KN11/0617**

#### **Small town centre improvement upgrade at Athgarvan**

The members considered the following joint motion in the names of Councillors Pender, Power, McLoughlin Healy and Lynch.

That the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District recognise the immediate need for a comprehensive small town centre improvement upgrade at Athgarvan. This should comprise of an upgrade to the crossroads to include a Plaza Type design and improvements to bus stops, walkways and cycle networks as agreed in the policy objectives of the County Development Plan 2017-2023 to bring the area up to its' designated small town centre standard.

The motion was proposed by Councillors Lynch, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this issue will be considered by the Municipal District Engineer in consultation with the Technical Assessment and Advisory Group (TAAG).

Councillor Lynch outlined the need for a town centre in Athgarvan with regard to recent development and the planning applications that are in the pipeline.

Councillor Pender stated that she welcomed development but stated it should be sustainable and that the residents had raised their concerns as to how they will be able to live in their town without the proper infrastructure being put in place before this development happens.

Councillor Power stated because of the proximity of Athgarvan to Newbridge, it was important that Athgarvan retain its own identity. Councillor Power noted the recent planning permission for development in Athgarvan after many years without development and he

stated that the members needed to be more proactive, suggesting that items such as Traffic Management Plans should be considered at budget time in relation to allocation of funding.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that the Traffic Management Plan was a big issue for residents, stating that a commitment was given that development should not happen other than in tandem with community amenities. Councillor McLoughlin Healy requested that the issues around traffic and parking in Athgarvan should be addressed irrespective of any planning application.

Councillor Lynch proposed that this issue should not be for TAAG as the report indicated as the issue was an urgent one and a request for central funding should be made.

In response to Councillor Lynch's proposal the District Manager confirmed that Mr. Minnock, Mr. Morrissey and himself had met the representatives of the residents association groups in Athgarvan to discuss the issues that could or should be addressed. The District Manager stated that the group decided to look at other comparable villages such as Allenwood and Robertstown to investigate how speed enforcement and car parking was addressed in their towns and to contact the Department of Education to discuss school capacity and he advised that the members delay any action until the representatives of the resident groups returned with the outcome of their investigations.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillors Lynch, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the members to be updated on any response from the residents group representing Athgarvan after their review on comparable towns and contact with the Department of Education on this issue.

#### **KN12/0617**

##### **Cutting back of hedges at Ballykelly Cross, Monasterevin**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Stafford  
That the council cut back the hedges at Ballykelly Cross, Monasterevin, which are presently posing a traffic hazard to motorists and other road users.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor Aspell.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the requested works have been completed.



**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor Aspell that the report be noted.

**KN13/0617****Report on number of Local Improvement and Community Involvement Schemes**

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

Can we have a comparison report on the number of Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) and Community Involvement Schemes (CIS), completed in the last three years across all five municipal districts and those scheduled for the current year?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the LIS and CIS, completed in the last three years across all five municipal districts are listed in the table below:

<b>LIS Schemes Completed 2014-2016</b>						
Years	Athy	Celbridge/Leixlip	Kildare Newbridge	Maynooth	Naas	Total
2016	2	-	2	2		6
2015	2	-	2	3	1	8
2014	1	-	1	2		4
Total	5	-	5	7	1	18
<b>CIS Schemes Completed 2014-2016</b>						
Years	Athy	Celbridge/Leixlip	Kildare Newbridge	Maynooth	Naas	Total
2016	1	-	-	-	-	1
2015	1	-	-	-	-	1
2014	4	-	1	1	-	6
Total	6	-	1	1	-	8

There are another 30 applications received to date across the 5 municipal districts under both schemes and 5 of these applications were received in 2017

Scheme	Athy	Celbridge/Leixlip	Kildare/Newbridge	Maynooth	Naas	Total
LIS	12	-	8	3	1	24
CIS	4	-	-	1	1	6
Total	16	-	8	4	2	30

Ms E Wright confirmed that under the LIS Schemes Completed 2014-2016 table, the figure listed for Maynooth for 2016 should read 4 bringing the total for 2016 to 8 and the total for all three years to 20. In response to Councillor Doyle's request for the locations listed under the LIS Schemes for Kildare-Newbridge, Ms E Wright confirmed that she would provide these details.

The report was noted.

**KN14/0617**

**Progress report on the traffic management plan for Kildare-Newbridge**

The committee agreed to consider item 12 and item 16 on the agenda together.

**Item 12 – Question Councillor Doyle**

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

Can we have a progress report on the traffic management plan for Kildare -Newbridge?

**Item 16 – Question Councillor McLoughlin Healy**

Can the council provide an update regarding the Traffic Management Plans and the Town Design Statements for Newbridge and Kildare Towns? This should include: an explanation as to why the €70,000 Local Property Tax (LPT) fund allocated by municipal district councillors for Town Design Statements to be developed by The Royal Institute of Architects (RIAI) has not been utilised, or the project even started; a copy of the most recent traffic management proposals presented to the National Transport Association (NTA) for Newbridge and Kildare which have not at any point in the last two years of failed applications to the NTA been made available to, or contributed to by elected representatives.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Roads Department continues to engage with the NTA on the draft tender specification. The District Manager to report on the Town Design Statements.

Councillor Doyle expressed her concern in the delay in receiving approval from the NTA stating that this needs progression with the impending development.

Ms E Wright confirmed that the scope of work had been exchanged, the NTA needed to approve this before the project could go to tender stating that the council was dependent on

them for funding, they would meet in July and would hope to get approval to go to tender stage then.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked if the members could see the Traffic Management Plan as presented to the NTA and also the details that were not accepted by them that caused the delay and queried the role of the members in considering this plan.

The District Manager confirmed that the plan would be processed by the executive and then brought before the members for consideration which was their role in the process.

Ms E Wright undertook to relay the members comments regarding the delay in this process to the Director for Service for Roads, Transportation and Public Safety.

The report was noted.

#### **KN15/0617**

##### **Process, cost and provision of a Traffic Management Plan**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Power  
Can the council explain the process in drawing up a traffic management plan, the approximate cost of drawing one for Athgarvan and if consideration could be given to providing one in the near future?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this issue will be considered by the Municipal District Engineer in consultation with the Technical Assessment and Advisory Group (TAAG). An outline of the content of a traffic management plan will be provided to the members with outline costs and timescales.

Councillor Power stated that the members had not received this information.

Ms E Wright stated that if the members wished the Senior Executive Traffic Engineer who was currently on annual leave could attend the next meeting to give this report.

Councillor Power requested that this report be given at the next meeting by the Senior Executive Traffic Engineer and asked for an approximate amount of the costs involved to which Ms E Wright responded that an estimate of costs was €200,000 to €225,000.

The report was noted.

**KN16/0617**

**Plans for improvements/repairs to footpaths and roads in Kilmeague**

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

Can the council provide the plans to carry out improvements/repairs to the footpaths and roads in Kilmeague this year?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that surface dressing will commence in Kilmeague in August 2017 along L-7081 Kilmeague-Prosperous Road for approximately 1.6 kilometres. Footpaths and carriage way repairs in Oaklawns Estate are funded under 2017 LPT/Pay Parking. Drainage issues at this location will also be investigated at this time. It is proposed to proceed with these works in Quarter 3/Quarter 4 2017.

The report was noted.

**KN17/0617**

**Traffic calming measures at Scoil Mhuire Secondary School in Newbridge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy In light of plans for a new extension at Scoil Mhuire Secondary School in Newbridge, can the council outline its plans to create a safe environment for both children and adults, students of Scoil Mhuire and residents of the Oaks and the Elms through appropriate and urgently needed traffic calming measures? These should include; the repainting of the yellow lines to prevent parking on and around corners across the road from the back entrance to Scoil Mhuire; the extension of the pathway from the Elms towards the back entrance of Scoil Mhuire to beyond the priest's residence to meet with the path which continues to the entrance to the Oaks; the repainting of the existing zebra crossing at the back entrance and the addition of zebra crossing lights to alert traffic to children crossing. This is an absolute necessity at peak times where congestion is bumper to bumper and ground markings are not visible; the creation of a further zebra crossing one third of the way between the back entrance and the entrance to The Oaks to allow children to cross the road safely from the Scoil Mhuire side of the road, and not between cars as they currently do; the council's response to the previous petition submitted two years ago by residents of The Oaks for ramps and the more recent submission by residents of the Oaks in December 2016 for ramps to limit speeding on the long straight route between The Elms and the entrance to The Oaks (photos available).

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the repainting of the yellow lines have been placed on the Line Marking Works Programme for 2017 which will be arranged in Q3 2017. The extension to the pathway is not on the Roadworks Programme for 2017 and no funding has been identified for these works. These works can be assessed for funding under Local Property Tax (LPT) / Pay Parking for 2018. The municipal district office will include the remarking of the zebra crossing in the Line Marking Works Programme for 2017 which will be arranged in Quarter 3 2017. The request for additional zebra crossing in The Oaks and request for ramps in The Oaks Estate will be referred to the Technical Assessment and Advisory Group (TAAG).

Councillor McLoughlin Healy made the point that the zebra crossing could not be seen because of cars parking on it stating that lights were required to make it more visible also seeking clarification on what had happened to the petition that had been submitted by the residents of The Oaks in 2016.

Ms E Wright confirmed that the matters referred to regarding The Oaks will be referred to the TAAG.

The report was noted.

#### **KN18/0617**

##### **Replacement of pavement slabs in Highfield Estate, Newbridge**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender  
Can the council replace the dangerous pavement slabs at the end of the housing blocks in Highfield Estate, Newbridge?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District Office has never maintained these areas as they do not form part of the public footpath/carraigeway over which they have a maintenance responsibility.

Councillor Pender questioned who was responsible for maintaining these dangerous pavement slabs if the council was not.

The Municipal District Engineer informed the members that these paving slabs were outside the public road and footpath and if through goodwill the council repaired them it would lead

to other areas looking for the same work to be carried out and this in turn would cause a huge funding problem.

Councillor Pender raised the question again as to how this issue could be addressed stating that she has a number of complaints from the resident's association raising their concerns.

The District Manager undertook to speak to the Parks Department to see if this is part of the area that they maintain.

The report was noted.

#### **KN19/0617**

##### **Taking in charge of Old Bog Road, Allenwood North and the Demesne, Rathangan**

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

Can the council please furnish an update on the Taking in Charge (TIC) of the Old Bog Road, Allenwood North and the local road at the Demesne, Mullantine, Rathangan both of which were brought up to a standard acceptable to the Local Authority pursuant to Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) works?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the municipal district office will inspect these locations, confirm that they are of a standard to be taken in charge, commence the statutory process and report back to the members.

Councillor Stafford requested that the Roads Department would look at the minutes for the January meeting when there were two motions raised in relation to this issue and it was agreed that a map was to be prepared and agreed with the Roads Design Section and he asked that in order to expedite this matter that it be progressed from this stage.

The report was noted.

#### **KN20/0617**

##### **Removal of park benches in Market Square area of Newbridge**

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

Will the council remove the park benches in the Market Square area of Newbridge as a deterrent to the consistent anti-social behaviour and dumping that occurs in this area?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the removal of the park benches is a matter for the members to determine. The municipal district office will facilitate the removal of the park benches at this location if all of the members are in agreement with same.

Councillor Stafford stated that he was conscious of the need for street furniture but there was anti-social behaviour in this area with loitering and dropping of litter etc., and he stated that he might consider raising this issue as the subject of a motion at a future stage.

The report was noted.

**KN21/0617**

**Roadway at the Meadows, Newbridge**

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

Can the council confirm if the road currently used as a public roadway going through the Meadows, Newbridge is a public or private roadway and what plans are in place to upgrade this in terms of road safety?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the original public road was realigned as part of the original planning permission by the developer. However, as this is an unfinished development and also as there are current pending planning applications to complete the development at this location, the status of this road i.e. public or private, is not clear. The municipal district office has no plans to do works at this location, but undertakes to liaise with the Planning Department to establish the status of the road.

Councillor Lynch stated that the residents were frustrated and had stated that they might block the roadway if something was not done with it. Councillor Lynch stated that this was a matter of urgency and requested that the council finds out who owns it.

Mr B Martin informed the members that in the short term the best solution would be for a new developer to come into the estate to complete the unfinished development and the road.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Lynch, the Municipal District Engineer stated that the timeframe depended on the time it took the developer to submit an application to the

council and the application going through the full planning process, he has a map of the area requested by the members and they were welcome to have a look at it.

The report was noted.

**KN22/0617**

**Engineer's report on corrosion at river bank at Barretstown cemetery**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Aspell  
That this council receives a engineer's report on the corrosion at the river bank at Barretstown cemetery as this is getting to a very serious point for the graves in this cemetery.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Aspell, seconded by Councillor Stafford.

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment Department informing the members that a specialist consultant has been instructed to examine the matter and to issue a report and recommendation.

Councillor Aspell stated that he had spoken to the Director of Service for Water Services and Environment and he would wait to review the consultant's report on this matter.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Aspell, seconded by Councillor Stafford that the members receive an update on the consultant's report and recommendation on this matter.

**KN23/0617**

**Payment of Grants to groups**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McCabe  
That the council find a mechanism to ensure that funds due to groups in the municipal district are deposited in their accounts earlier in the year.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McCabe, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy.

A report was received from the Community and Culture Department informing the members that the Local Property Tax (LPT) payment process can only be initiated when all LPT allocations have been agreed by the elected members in each of the municipal districts by the end of March each year. Unfortunately the biggest delay in making payments is the non return of necessary paperwork by groups. Over 80 letters of LPT awards were issued to



groups since April and only half have returned their paperwork despite follow up calls and written correspondence. If members are aware of any groups having difficulty with paperwork, please inform Community and Culture and they can offer assistance.

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment Department informing the members that LPT grants can only be paid at a point where there is a resolution by the members setting out specifically the amount of grant as well as the benefiting group. It is agreed that other grants, which are dependent on the general budget should be paid expeditiously.

Councillor McCabe thanked the departments for their reply stating that it was a matter for the members and suggested that these be discussed at the beginning of March next year.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor McCabe, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the report be noted.

#### **KN24/0617**

##### **Compulsory Purchase Order on derelict site at O'Modhrain Hall, Cutlery Road**

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

That this council calls on the Chief Executive to proceed with haste, the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) of the long term derelict site at O' Modhrain Hall, Cutlery Road, Newbridge.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Lynch, seconded by Councillor Stafford.

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the council served a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) under the Derelict Sites Act. There was an objection on the part of the owners, being trustees who are currently in the process of being reconstituted. The council were further given assurances in recent weeks that the property would be offered for public sale in the immediate future, subject to the consent of the Charities Regulatory Authority. For its part, the council is currently seeking assurances regarding timescales and reserves its position to re-enter the CPO depending on a satisfactory response. The matter is currently being treated as a priority.

Councillor Lynch stated that this matter had been discussed numerous times and it was an eyesore in the town and he called for a CPO on this site.

Mr L Dunne stated that the council had sent correspondence to the solicitors and he advised the members to await the response from them before deciding how to proceed.

Councillor Stafford noted that this site was a blight on the landscape and that something should be done about it.

Councillor Lynch requested that this matter be kept on the Progress Report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Lynch, seconded by Councillor Stafford that the CPO of the long term derelict site at O' Modhrain Hall, Cutlery Road, Newbridge be kept on the Progress Report.

#### **KN25/0617**

##### **Removal of debris after grave works are completed**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Aspell  
What procedures do the council have in place with undertakers and headstone companies regarding the removal of debris and rubble which is left behind after grave works are completed?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that in the majority of cemeteries, a designated area is provided for the deposit of grave plot material. As part of the current extension works in St. Conleth's Cemetery (Newbridge), it was necessary to relocate this area. A new area has been identified and a special bay area will be developed. Material has now been removed from the current area of concern and the area will be seeded and grassed.

The report was noted.

#### **KN26/0617**

##### **Pot holes and grass cutting in Newbridge Cemetery**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor McCabe  
Could the roads within Newbridge Cemetery have their potholes filled in and the grass cut more frequently within the cemetery and its' car park?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the roads will be examined and appropriate repairs undertaken (where necessary). Specific

plans are being drafted to carry out improvement works in the car park (i.e. roads surfacing and boundary treatment). A grass cutting programme is being put in place.

The report was noted.

**KN27/0617**

**Positioning of headstones in new section of cemetery**

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

Would the council consider situating headstones in the new cemetery section back to back so that those visiting their family grave don't have to walk over someone else's grave?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the request will be examined in the context of the layout detail for the new lawn cemetery.

The report was noted.

**KN28/0617**

**Taking in Charge of private housing developments**

The members considered the taking in charge of the following private housing estates:

1. Ballymany Manor, Newbridge.
2. Preston Heights, Kilmeague.
3. The developed part of Temple Mills, Rathangan as shown on the Taking In Charge Display map (47 units).
4. Preston Brook, Rathangan.
5. Doctors Court, Rathangan.

Mr W Hannigan read the following report into the record:

It is proposed to take the following estates in charge in the conventional manner at the request of the developer.

1. Preston Heights, Kilmeague.
2. The developed part of Temple Mills, Rathangan.
3. Preston Brook, Rathangan.

Preston Heights in Kilmeague was on public display for taking in charge from the 16 February 2015 to 18 March 2015 inclusive and the period for submissions ended on the 3 April 2015. No submissions were received in relation to the taking in charge during the statutory period.

The developed part of Temple Mills, Rathangan and Preston Brook, Rathangan were on public display for taking in charge from the 6 March 2017 to 7 April 2017 inclusive and the period for submissions ended on the 26 April 2017. No submissions were received in relation to the taking in charge during the statutory period.

It is proposed to take the following estates in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended at the request of a majority of the owners of the houses involved.

1. Ballymany Manor, Newbridge.
2. Doctors Court, Rathangan.

A majority of the owners of the houses in Doctors Court and Ballymany Manor requested the council to take the estate in charge in accordance with Section 180 of The Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

Ballymany Manor in Newbridge was on public display for taking in charge from the 16 February 2015 to 18 March 2015 inclusive and the period for submissions ended on the 3 April 2015. One submission was received from Ballymany Residents Association in relation to the taking in charge of Ballymany Manor in Newbridge on 30 March 2015 and had been circulated to members.

The submission relates to:

- Storm Drains – some need to be emptied.
- Footpaths – sections of broken uneven footpaths.
- Uncovered 'drain pipe'- pipe in open space that needs to be capped.
- Sewage Drains – there have been issues with sewage drains that Council would be aware of.

This estate is being taken in charge at the request of the residents on the basis of Section 180 Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended). There is no developer available to attend to outstanding issues relating to storm drains or footpaths. These will have to be dealt as part of routine maintenance when the estate has been taken in charge.

There have been ongoing issues with sections of the public foul sewer in the estate. The available bond money was used to fund a CCTV of the problematic sections of sewer and to fund the repair of the defects identified in the CCTV survey.

Doctors Court in Rathangan was on public display for taking in charge from the 6 March 2017 to 7 April 2017 inclusive and the period for submissions ended on the 26 April 2017. No submissions were received in relation to the taking in charge of Doctors Court in Rathangan during the statutory period.

Irish Water has approved the taking in charge of all five estates and the water and wastewater infrastructure shall be transferred to Irish Water.

The five estates listed consist of some 274 houses in all. Having considered the financial implications and as the roads are of general public utility it is recommended that the following estates are formally taken in charge by Kildare County Council.

1. Ballymany Manor, Newbridge. 2015
2. Preston Heights, Kilmeague. 2015
3. Temple Mills, Rathangan. 2017
4. Preston Brook, Rathangan. 2017
5. Doctors Court, Rathangan. 2017

In response to a request for clarification from Councillor McLoughlin Healy, Mr W Hannigan outlined the difference between taking in charge in the conventional manner and taking in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor Doyle and with the agreement of all the members that Ballymany Manor, Newbridge, Preston Heights, Kilmeague, Temple Mills, Rathangan, Preston Brook, Rathangan and Doctors Court, Rathangan be taken in charge by Kildare County Council.

#### **KN29/0617**

#### **Taking in Charge of Collaghknock Estate, The Plains, Kildare**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Doyle  
That we get a detailed report on the Taking in Charge (TIC) of Collaghknock Estate, The Plains, Kildare, to include schedule of works from Irish Water with specific timelines and consider the TIC of the first phase of the estate in advance of remainder.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Power.

Mr W Hannigan outlined the current position on the taking in charge of Collaghknock Estate, The Plains, Kildare to the members.

Councillor Doyle stated that she had many complaints from residents of this estate regarding issues with lighting and sewerage and she suggested if feasible that the front of the estate could be taken in charge to alleviate the problems for residents and she asked for a timeline as to when this estate could be taken in charge.

Mr W Hannigan stated that there were many issues involved and suggested that maybe small remedial works could be carried out immediately but he could not give a timeframe for the taking in charge of this estate as the repair to the sewers would need to be carried out first and then the road works would need to be completed.

Councillor Doyle requested that the members be kept informed on this matter.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Power that the members are kept informed on this matter.

### **KN30/0617**

#### **Request to the Minister for Housing, Planning Community and Local Government**

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

That the council request the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government to release the report that was commissioned in 2015 regarding fire safety in timber framed homes. This review was carried out by an independent fire safety expert to develop a framework for general application and used Millfield Manor as a case study. Residents were promised a copy which has yet to materialise.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy.

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that this is a matter for the members to discuss and to decide on at the meeting.

Councillor Pender stated that she had submitted this motion before the fire in the tower block in London had happened and she offered her condolences to the victims of this tragedy.

Councillor Pender stated that a report that was commissioned by the then minister Alan Kelly TD after the Millfield Manor fire over two years ago, had been completed, the residents had requested to see it but the Department was not forthcoming in releasing this report.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that she fully supported the motion stating that there was no argument for not publishing this report as soon as possible.

Councillor Lynch said that this matter was brought up in the Dail in June and there was no response as yet and that this was not acceptable.

Councillor McCabe concurred with the members and said that it was vital to see this report so that any issues regarding fire safety could be addressed.

In response to Councillor Pender's question the District Manager stated that this report was sought previously by the Strategic Policy Committee and they received the same response that the matter was under consideration.

In response to Councillor Pender's request the District Manager undertook to send a strongly worded letter to the Department requesting that the report be released to the residents without delay.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the District Manager issue a strongly worded letter to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government requesting the release of this report without delay.

### **KN31/0617**

#### **Progress report on community development work in Rosconnell, Newbridge**

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

That we get a progress report on community development work in Rosconnell Newbridge.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Power.

Mr G Halton gave a comprehensive progress report to the members on community development work in Rosconnell, Newbridge.

Councillor Doyle commended the Community Department on their phenomenal work on this project stating that it was helping to empower people in creating sustainable communities and she asked that the momentum be supported.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the volunteers in Rosconnell and cautioned the withdrawal of support at an early stage which might undo all that had been achieved so far. Councillor McLoughlin Healy thanked Doreen Delaney and the committee for all their hard work and help to date.

In response to the request to have a sign put over the door of the community facility the District Manager stated that he would investigate the possibility of this.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Power that the report be noted and the District Manager investigate the installation of a sign over the door of the community facility in Rosconnell.

### **KN32/0617**

#### **Suspension of Standing Orders**

On the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor Stafford and agreed by all the members, the Mayor suspend Standing Orders at 1.00 p.m. for five minutes to allow the meeting to conclude.

### **KN33/0617**

#### **Matrix pricing structure included in review of Town Hall**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy That the review of the Town Hall includes a matrix pricing structure, allowing for flexible pricing of the Town Hall. This should include a reduced fee for people or organisations renting the Town Hall for a purpose with a clear community dividend. A more appropriate fee of €10/hr should be introduced immediately to allow the Cottage Market to gain traction and to grow. The Cottage Market is a fantastic exemplar of the type of tenant we need to support and encourage - a new initiative for Newbridge and its' environs with clear benefits to the community in terms of education around the environment and sustainability, support of local growers and crafters, provision of local, fresh and/or homemade produce, the potential to encourage the growth of community gardens and to attract visitors to the town.



The motion was proposed by Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor Stafford.

A report was received from the Community and Culture Department informing the members that prior to the opening of the Town Hall for business, the Board of Management undertook a comprehensive review and produced its report and recommendations, which was circulated to the municipal district members. This dealt with among other things:

- the background and early examples of usage
- the extensive consultation process
- the open sessions for the public
- suggestions on possible uses
- the main factors influencing future usage
- the operation, management and promotion
- recommended policy on usage
- recommended one year trial period
- recommendation on charging rates of €40 per hour, for community groups and non

commercial activities. In relation to open door paying events of a commercial nature, a charge fee should be on a recovery cost plus basis. As there is an ongoing charge for providing the booking service, waste disposal, inspections and charge for every hour when the building is open for an event, it is important that there is a reasonable charge rate to meet these costs. The Board of Management were very conscious to achieve a reasonable balance between attracting demand and covering costs, while being in line generally with the charges levied elsewhere within the venues in the town, and should be a complementary facility. In addition, the review that is due to take place will take into account the pricing structure.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated that the pricing structure where one price fits all was totally inappropriate and she would like to see the review develop a marketing plan stating that there was a gap in expertise in relation to marketing the hall.

Councillor Pender stated her support for the motion stating that €40 was very punitive for small groups, that the hall was opened on the basis that it was a community facility and therefore the cost should not be prohibitive to those wanting to use it. Councillor Pender agreed that there should be a different pricing structure, for different groups or businesses.

Mr G Halton stated that a lot of money was spent on the refurbishment and conservation of the Town Hall and there were costs associated with operating it, informing the members that K Leisure manage the hall and in turn bill the council for their costs. Mr G Halton stated that the members had endorsed the recommendation of a charge of €40 per hour.

Councillor Stafford noted that there had been an opportunity for a member to be appointed to the Board of Management of the Town Hall, which was declined and he suggested that the members look at pricing structures on comparable halls and look at the matter again when the review was completed.

In response to Councillor McLoughlin's question, Mr G Halton stated that the members could contribute to the review and could request a meeting with the Board of Management if they so wished.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor Stafford that the report be noted.

#### **KN34/0617**

##### **Suspension of Standing Orders**

On the proposal of Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor Power and agreed by all the members, the Mayor suspend Standing Orders until 1.30 p.m. to allow the meeting to conclude.

#### **KN35/0617**

##### **Establishment of Twinning Liaison Committee**

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

That the council establish a municipal district Twinning Liaison Committee to work with and assist the various twinning committees located in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy.

The District Manager informed the members that as had happened in other municipal districts the members of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District can look to appoint a member to act as a liaison person with each of the four twinning committees.

Councillor Stafford noted that this municipal district was very fortunate to have two members that held a lot of experience in twinning, Councillors Kennedy and Aspell and he proposed that a committee be set up with the Mayor and or the Deputy Mayor with a nominated member, to meet perhaps on a quarterly basis, to co-ordinate the matter relating to the four twinning committees. This committee would consider what role the local authority has and how to assist the other twinning committees.

In answer to queries raised by Councillor McLoughlin Healy at the meeting and previously the District Manager confirmed that there was a need and it was very important to introduce consistency across the municipal districts.

Councillor Pender agreed that there was a need to look at how and why these twinning groups functioned and how they are supported.

The District Manager undertook to request a full list of the towns that have twinning arrangements, the length of time they have been twinned and the benefits of the individual twinings.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Stafford, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy that the proposal to establish a municipal district Twinning Liaison Committee to work with and assist the various twinning committees located in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District be referred to the Protocol Committee for consideration.

The meeting concluded.