

**Minutes of Athy Municipal District Meeting held at 10.00 am on
Monday 22 January 2018 in the Athy Municipal District offices,
Rathstewart, Athy, Co Kildare**

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

Apologies: Councillor I Keatley

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Mr M Kavanagh (Assistant
District Engineer), Ms E Wright and Ms A Aspell (Senior
Executive Officers), Ms A Louw (Senior Staff Officer), Ms P
Berry (Marketing Officer), Ms F Byrne (Meetings Administrator)
and Ms O Mooney (Meetings Secretary)

AY01/0118

Suspension of Standing Orders

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Wall that standing orders be suspended for five minutes to start the meeting at 10.05 am.

AY02/0118

Chair for Meeting

Councillor Breslin gave apologies for Councillor Keatley as he was unable to attend the meeting and took the chair with the agreement of the members.

AY03/0118

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 11 December 2017 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Wall that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 11 December 2017 be adopted and the progress report was noted.

AY04/0118

Matters Arising

White's Castle (AY07/0617, AY04/0717, AY03/1017)

Ms Louw stated that a letter issued on 7 December 2017 to the owner of White's Castle. The owner had been in touch with the Conservation Officer and a dialogue was had about the protected structure and the funding schemes that were available to assist with works. To date, no application has been received with the closing date being 31 January 2018.

Councillor Redmond stated he was unhappy to hear that no application had been received yet from the owner of the castle. He said it was unfortunate that this structure was left in a derelict condition. He asked for a copy of the Conservation Officer's report. Ms Louw stated that she would request that this report be circulated to the members before their next meeting.

TAAG Administration (AY07/0917, AY02/1117)

Ms Wright circulated the bi-monthly report for January 2018 from TAAG to the members. She stated that this would be the format of the report given on a bi-monthly basis to the members. She re-iterated that the TAAG team were working as quickly as they could to assess and carry out works. She stated that the TAAG team were receiving queries from elected members, members of the public and Oireachtas members.

A discussion ensued and Councillor Redmond asked for an update on safety works at Kildangan Bridge and asked when would works commence. Ms Wright stated that she would reply to the members by email after the meeting. Councillor Redmond asked how long it would take for the technical survey to be carried out for the safe crossing between McEvoy's public house in Athy and the New World Chinese Restaurant. Ms Wright stated that all works were scheduled to be done as soon as possible.

Councillor Miley raised the issue of safety upgrades at Old Grange Cross and he noted that this was raised many times at council meetings and asked for an update. Ms Wright stated that a preliminary inspection was carried out and that land take might be required. She stated that she would get a full update for the members before their next meeting.

Councillor Wall asked when do members of the public get replies to their queries. Ms Wright stated that all the members of the public queries are acknowledged and they are informed that their matters would be assessed by the TAAG team. The bi-monthly report is only circulated to the elected members.

Councillor Miley stated that the safety audit on the N78 from Ballitore to Athy had to happen as the current situation was very dangerous.

Councillor Redmond asked what the situation was with speeding queries. Ms Wright stated that there was dedicated resources in place for speed reviews. She stated that this team from Roads would come to each municipal district meeting, possibly in March, to discuss all issues with regard to speeding.

Winter Preparation Plans - Athy Municipal District (AY07/1217)

Councillor Wall noted the report given informing the members that this issue was discussed at both the MEMC (Major Emergency Management Centre) and the December SWAT (Severe Weather Assessment Team) meeting. A system called MapAlerter was under examination and this was a system that had multiple uses such as, it would automatically update the social media platforms of alerts from sources such as Met Eireann, it would take information messages from council staff such as road/water/municipal district engineers etc and, as well as updating the various social media streams, it would send a text message to people in the affected area that had registered with the service (it was free and easy to register). It stated that if it was established, then the community groups already established would be consulted and if in agreement, they could be added to the system for notification. The system can be used for multiple other tasks as well such as planning notices. Ms Wright stated that this system was currently under consideration adding this system was used by other local authorities. She stated that it was currently in the hands of the council's IT Section for consideration.

Pedestrian Crossing in front of community centre, Castledermot (AY19/0617)

Councillor Wall noted report informing the members that TAAG had recommended that a pedestrian count should be carried out to determine whether a crossing was warranted at this location. Ms Wright stated that she would have an update on the next bi-monthly report of TAAG.

Purchase of Unoccupied houses in Corran Ard Estate, Athy (AY10/1703, AY03/0617)

Mr Makhuza stated that the money received from the Department was only enough to carry out the repair works to the wall. He proposed to proceed with the taking in charge of the estate and then they could address all remedial works necessary such as sewerage works at Branswood. He stated that they would advertise Corran Ard as a separate housing estate. Councillor Wall stated that the purchase of nine houses had been delayed as this estate was not taken in charge. He added it was very important to advertise the taking in charge as quickly as possible and it was also important to sort out the sewerage problem at Branswood.

Athy Regeneration Strategy (AY26/1217)

The District Manager stated that many projects were being delivered and he asked to meet with the members, in committee, to discuss actions to prioritise for 2018. This was agreed by the members.

Re-generation of Emily Square, Athy (AY16/0917)

Councillor Breslin asked for an update on this matter. The District Manager stated that he was working with the District Engineer and he hoped to have their proposals at the next meeting.

AY05/0118

Update on the Athy Municipal District Roadworks

Ms Wright circulated a progress report to the members. The Cathaoirleach asked that the litter bins at K Leisure be emptied and that they be put on the list for collection in future. Councillor Redmond asked for an update on Meeting Lane and entrance to carpark, access to skateboard park, drainage works at St Evin's Park, Monasterevin and how many bins had been removed from the municipal district and not replaced. Mr Kavanagh, Assistant District Engineer stated that he would have an update for the members before the next meeting.

AY06/0118

Athy Distributor Road

Ms Wright stated that Mr Coppinger was unable to attend the meeting today but he asked that an in-committee meeting be arranged either before or after the February meeting to

discuss this road. The members agreed to this and Ms Wright would contact with members with a date and time for a meeting once it was organised.

AY07/0118

Opening of Water Cuts - Athy Municipal District

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Miley:
In light of water lying on roadsides in this municipal district, that the council continue opening water cuts and also work with the local farming community (Irish Farming Association) to put a policy in place for landowners to open water cuts safely.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the roadside drainage works had been carried out throughout the Athy Municipal District Area. This work would continue for the next few months. It would also be combined with preparing works for road improvements and maintenance works in the summer. The issue of an agreement with the IFA would be a policy issue for the council.

Councillor Miley stated that the council should meet with the IFA to maintain the water cuts and to come up with a policy for landowners to open water cuts safely.

Councillor Redmond stated that he came across three floods on the roads in the district and they were very dangerous. This matter should be referred to the Roads SPC.

Councillor Wall raised the issue of council insurance for community groups to carry out works on public roads. He added he raised this matter many times over the years and he asked that Mr Coppinger come back to the members with a report in this regard.

Ms Wright stated that the Roads and Environment Sections met recently to discuss flooding issues.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Redmond that a meeting be arranged with the IFA and that a policy be agreed and then brought to the appropriate SPC and that Mr Coppinger update the members with regard to council insurance for community groups to carry out works on behalf of the council on public roads.

AY08/0118

Survey of Drains in William Pearse Terrace, Castledermot

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

That the council conduct a survey of the drains in William Pearse Terrace, Castledermot to ascertain if there is work needed.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that there were two types of Drainage Systems in William Pearse Terrace: a Foul Sewer and a Surface Water System. Irish Water was responsible for the foul sewer and the council's Roads Section was responsible for the surface water. The Surface Water system was cleaned out periodically and was in good condition. If there were any specific issues, Councillor Redmond can contact the Municipal District Office.

Councillor Redmond stated that four residents complained about the sewerage problem in their gardens. Councillor Wall stated this was a concern for residents and he asked that the surface water be blasted immediately.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Wall that the surface water be blasted immediately and that Irish Water be contacted regarding the sewerage concerns.

AY09/0118

Salting Routes - Athy Municipal District

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

That the council immediately include the L3010, Kildangan to Kildare Town Road on their salting routes and that emergency signage be on standby for all future events where accidents occur and where roads are not salted.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the salting trucks used by the council are running at near full salting capacity at present, which precludes the council from making any changes, no matter how

small, to the salting routes, during routine salting operations. Consequently, it was not possible to extend the routes at this time, nor it was possible to cater for additional roads during routine operations. There was, however, an alternate route to the L3010, which was salted, by travelling on the R417 from Kildangan to Monasterevin and from Monasterevin to Kildare via the old N7 or the M7. The issue of providing emergency signage etc., can be examined by the Municipal District Engineer.

Councillor Wall stated that he received telephone calls recently with regard to four accidents at this location on the one day. He noted that the roads crew do terrific salting work at all hours of the night to cover 550kms of roads in the district during the frosty periods. However, the council need to look at increasing their resources to include additional roads which need to be salted. He added that the routes need to be reviewed immediately to include the L3010, Kildangan to Kildare Town Road. He noted that footpaths also need to be salted around the schools.

Councillor Miley asked that a traffic count be carried out on the L3010 and that it should be upgraded to a regional road.

Councillor Redmond asked that emergency funding be sought for extra salting routes during the cold season.

The Cathaoirleach shared the members concerns and stated that the weather conditions can change quickly and she proposed that the salting routes be reviewed before the next meeting.

Councillor Dalton thanked the roads crew but the council would have to evaluate roads which are heavily trafficked and that manpower and funding was required.

Ms Wright noted the members concerns and would bring them back to the Director of Service. She stated that the Director of Service had spoken on KFM last week in regard to salting routes. She reiterated again that the council were currently covering 550 kms of road in the district and that there were nine defined routes which means that the salting trucks are running at near full salting capacity. She added that the routes would be reviewed in April 2018 and Mr John McGowan, Senior Engineer would be carrying out this review. This review would also look at how to get the information out to the public more efficiently. She

added that there was no legal requirement to salt footpaths and that funding was not available to carry out such works. She stated that emergency funding and whether outside contractors could be brought in would be considered.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Redmond that the salting routes be reviewed in April 2018 and Ms Wright to bring back the members concerns to the Director of Service.

AY10/0118

Upgrading of Woodstock Street, Athy

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

That the council confirm the current position with regard to the upgrading of Woodstock Street, Athy including footpaths, traffic calming measures and road resurfacing.

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 upgrading of Woodstock Street would require the following; a design would have to be done. Then, it would require footpaths, roads, and traffic calming measures to be carried out and finance would have to be secured.

The Cathaoirleach stated that this road and its footpaths were in terrible condition and that there had been accidents on ramps there recently. She understood that this road would be looked at under LPT funding and that it is a priority.

Councillor Wall stated that this matter had been on the agenda for a long time and the report given at today's meeting was that a design still had to be done. He stated he was unhappy with this reply and it was totally unacceptable. He agreed that this road should be repaired immediately by using LPT funding.

Councillor Dalton stated that he had been told previously that repairs to this road would be carried out on a phased basis. He added there were no road markings after you pass the Health Centre and the road was dangerous for all.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Wall that a report be prepared for the next meeting and that this road be repaired under LPT funding immediately.

AY11/0118

Update on revised junction layout at The Square, Narraghmore

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

In light of the revised junction layout at The Square in Narraghmore, can the council give an update on when work will start on the redevelopment in this area?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that it was hoped that the works would start in March/April. The municipal district was trying to finalise the details of the specification in relation to tying in with existing premises etc. This work was being carried out by the municipal district office.

The report was noted.

AY12/0118

Upgrade of Sweep Lane in Nurney

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

Can the council confirm the up to date position with the upgrade of Sweep Lane in Nurney?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that a design was required for the Lane as a whole which would include public lighting, footpath, drainage and road surfacing. This design would have to be carried out by the Municipal District Office.

Councillor Wall was happy with report and he understood that funding was in place. He asked for a further report for the next meeting indicating a timeframe for this project.

The report was noted.

AY13/0118

Flooding at Ballyhade, Castledermot

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wall:
Can the council address the serious flooding at Ballyhade, Castledermot including a permanent solution as discussed with the area engineer?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that there was an issue with the Ballyhade Road which relates to the width of the road. This was a contributory factor to the drainage issues at Ballyhade. This can be included on the schedule of Drainage Works.

The report was noted.

AY14/0118

Central Heating System - Millview Estate in Ballitore and Moat View in Kilmead

Councillor Miley raised this matter under progress report but was dealt with when the Housing matters were dealt with.

The members were informed that the Housing Maintenance Department had carried out a detailed assessment of all the houses in Millview and Moatview and found the following:

Millview Ballitore

- 48 houses in total;
- 7 currently had dual-type heating (stove with back-boiler, supplemented by oil-fired) systems;
- 41 had stove/fireplace with back-boiler type central heating systems.

Moat View Kilmead

- 42 houses in total;
- 15 had dual-type heating systems;
- 27 had stove/fireplace with back-boiler central heating systems.

It was estimated that to install oil-fired central heating systems in each of the 68 houses in these two estates currently without, would cost anything between €400,000 and €450,000, depending on the range of accommodation works involved. As pointed out in a previous

report, these were not the only estates in the county without oil-fired central heating systems. Current building regulations and departmental advice was steering away from carbon fuel burning central heating systems and towards more sustainable type heating systems instead. Specific SEAI funding can be made available to private home owners for central heating upgrade works if such works form part of an overall package of energy upgrade works for the house. Local Authorities were not, however, eligible for such grants. Ms. Aspell stated if the members were in agreement, the Housing Department would write to each tenant in both estates, advising them that the Council was considering upgrading their existing heating systems to oil-fired and seeking their feedback, as some tenants may not be keen to use oil fired heating, which had been the case in the past. This would allow the council to plan and more accurately cost the works. Once the scale of what was required was more accurately known, available funding would be reviewed. Given the estimated costs as outlined above, it was likely that any budget provision that Kildare County Council can make would need to be supplemented by departmental funding, which was not currently available. Ms. Aspell also stated should any tenant in these estates wish to upgrade their heating system to oil-fired, the members have allocated specific funding towards the Self-Help Grant scheme for 2018, which some tenants have used in the past for similar type improvements. It was envisaged that this scheme would soon be open to applications. The Senior Executive Engineer in the Housing Department was available to meet with the members to discuss further either by attending a future meeting of the municipal district or meeting individual members in person.

Councillor Miley thanked the council for the detailed report.

The report was noted.

AY15/0118

Housing Delivery - Athy Municipal District

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Redmond:
Can the members of this municipal district be given a clear and up to date schedule of housing delivery in our municipal district, i.e. targets and actual delivery to date?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that an update on social housing delivery was included in the monthly management report submitted to full

council. This incorporated information relating to each of the five municipal districts, including Athy. In addition, a quarterly update on activity in the housing department, across all service areas, was submitted to full council and was also considered by the Housing Strategic Policy Committee.

Specifically with regard to Athy municipal district the following is the current position:

- 13 turnkey units delivered in Monasterevin.
- 35 units to be delivered by Respond! Housing Association at Flinter's Field, Athy.
- 25 units to be constructed by Kildare County Council on the Dominican Lands, Athy
- Infill sites have been identified at Narraghmore; Glandore, Athy; Skenagun, Castledermot.

Targets were set for each local authority by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, with units to be delivered through a number of mechanisms including local authority construction/acquisition, approved housing bodies construction/acquisition, leasing, CAS etc. In addition units are delivered through Part V; location and volume was determined by activity in the private housing market.

The council has not set targets by municipal district, but are mindful of the need for social housing across all areas of the county. In this regard the council have advertised for expressions of interest for social housing delivery on a number of occasions including as recently as December. The council was happy to discuss opportunities for social housing delivery in any location in the county where there was a social housing need.

Councillor Redmond stated it was time that targets were set for municipal districts as he was worried that the council were not doing enough. Councillor Redmond noted that infill sites were identified and asked when these would be progressed.

Ms Aspell stated that progressing sites was a resource issue and additional staff were required. She added that the staff available were working to the best of their ability. She stated that the Housing Department were interested in more turnkey units. In regard to

Gallowshill, the council were waiting on Respond! to come back to them. She said that infill sites would progress this year and that the council were in the market for land but it had to be suitable. She added that the council had targets from the Department and they would be reviewed and confirmed that the members would get a full progress report at the January full council meeting.

The report was noted.

AY16/0118

Numerical System - Housing List

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Redmond: Can the council immediately identify a numerical system for those on the housing list in our municipal district? This would help people in defining their position and stop confusion.

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that the council's allocation scheme for Social Housing was adopted by the members at a meeting of full council on 28 November 2016 in accordance with Section 22 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 and Social Housing Allocation Regulations 2011. The scheme provides that applicants for social housing, other than those applicants applying for overall priority, will be considered on a time on a list basis. Overall priority was given to applicants who satisfy certain criteria which was set out in the allocations scheme. Time on the list, while not yet an absolute requirement, was the preference of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. It was open to applicants for social housing to identify three areas of preference, all having equal status, therefore their position on the housing list would vary from one location to another.

The report was noted.

AY17/0118

Update - Commencement of the Construction of the Units by Respond in Flinter's Field, Athy

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

Can the council give an update in relation to the commencement of the construction of the units by Respond in Flinter's Field, Athy?

A report was received from the Housing Section informing the members that Respond Housing Association was developing the site at Flinter's Field on behalf of Kildare County Council and, in that regard, they have provided the following programme of works. The programme was subject to project stage approvals and various testing requirements being carried out within the indicated timescales.

- The tender package was currently being progressed. The tender process was programmed from early March to mid April 2018.
- Water pressure testing was due to commence and archaeological trench testing was due to start before the end of January.
- The construction stage duration was 18 months and was programmed to commence in June 2018 and would run until October 2019.

The Cathaoirleach was happy with report but she stated that Respond! need to meet with the residents.

Ms Aspell stated that she would organise a meeting with Respond so the Athy Municipal District members could be provided with an update.

The report was noted.

AY18/0118

Sewage Smell in the centre of Castledermot

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

That the council in conjunction with Irish Water find out the reasons for the continuing sewage smell in the centre of Castledermot and the smell continuing to emanate into businesses and houses.

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

A report was received from the Water Services Section informing the members that this issue would be investigated in conjunction with Irish Water and a report would issue in due course.

Councillor Miley stated that the sewage blockage was dealt with by Irish Water. Councillor Wall stated there was a bad smell at this location and that non-return valves had been considered. He asked that the council meet with businesses on this.

The District Manager stated that investigations were ongoing and that he would circulate a report to the members after the meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Wall that the District Manager would circulate a report to the members after the meeting.

AY19/0118

Derelict/Strategic Buildings - Athy Municipal District

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

That this municipal district asks the owners of derelict but strategic buildings in the municipal district, what their intentions are for these beautiful buildings and if the buildings are available to be used or donated (examples provided).

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

A report was received informing the members that the Environment Section had specific powers under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 to request that owners/occupiers of derelict type structures undertake appropriate improvement works. Reports of specific buildings would be investigated. In the council's experience, dereliction typically arises for a number of reasons: trading difficulties (eg business in receivership), ownership (eg coveyancing), change of use (eg planning requirements), owners personal circumstances and financial ability to effect improvements. A briefing (in committee) on the status of council's current cases within the municipal district can be facilitated.

Councillor Redmond stated there were a number of buildings left derelict in the municipal district. He noted that owners had been written to but no replies were received. He stated that the council need to know what the owners are going to do with their properties as these

buildings are reflecting negatively on the area and asked that a further letter issue to owners.

Councillor Miley stated that it was vitally important to sort this problem out as buildings can be upgraded.

The District Manager stated that the council had powers under the Derelict Sites Act, if the buildings were deemed to be derelict. He added that an informal approach could be effective. He said it would be a matter for the members if they want a meeting in committee to discuss derelict sites in the area and added that it was highly unlikely that these buildings would be donated to the council. He suggested that the meeting to discuss these cases would take place either in February or March 2018.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Miley that an in-committee meeting take place in February or March to have a more detailed discussion on derelict sites in the area.

AY20/0118

Illegal Dumping - Athy Municipal District

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

That the council confirm the cost of their recent clean ups of illegal dumping in the district, and that a special pilot scheme setting up a task force be run in this area, to combat once and for all the damage that this illegal dumping is doing to our towns, villages and countryside. This special task force must include all relevant agencies.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the Community Warden and Waste Enforcement Teams undertake investigations of complaints of illegal dumping within the Municipal District area. The Council spends over €2.5 million annually on street cleaning and costs associated with clean ups of illegal dumping in the county. Typically 16 clean ups are undertaken each month in the Athy district. The cost of each clean up ranges from €500 to €2,500. Where evidence regarding the offenders was discovered, the Council issue fines and pursue legal action in relation to offences. A total of 340 fines (Litter Pollution Act) were issued in 2017 across the county. In addition, a number of cases under the Waste Management Acts were initiated. The Environment Section

liaised with other agencies, including An Garda Síochána, Coillte, Waterways Ireland, etc in its work to deter illegal dumping. Reports of litter and illegal dumping should be advised to the Council's Litter Freephone 1800 243 143. A briefing ('in committee') on the status of Council's enforcement work can be facilitated.

Councillor Wall thanked the District Manager and Mr Fallon for all their work to date in cleaning up illegal dumping in the municipal district. However, he stated illegal dumping was a disgrace at the moment and was absolutely unacceptable. He asked that the council convene a meeting together with other agencies to address this problem once and for all as the council cannot continue to pay out huge amounts of money to clean up illegal dumping. He added that those dumping are regular offenders and that these offenders should be named and shamed and noted this dumping was causing serious damage to tourism and to our countryside.

Councillor Miley stated there was a man in Athy collecting rubbish in his van from residents and then dumping it along the roadsides and he was constantly getting away with it. He added that the Gardai were aware of this person. He added that a taskforce needed to be set up as laws had to be tightened.

Councillor Redmond stated that the council need to introduce a policy so that the council know where all their tenants, including HAP tenants, are dumping. He added that the river was cleaned out twice a year and it was unreal what was taken out during these clean-ups.

Councillor Dalton stated that illegal dumping was a terrible blight in the district and he would support whatever measures could be put in place.

The Cathaoirleach agreed that this crisis needed to be sorted.

The District Manager clarified that the council spend €2.5 million on street sweeping and that there are two crews full-time on the roads. They collect over 300 tonnes annually. He added that they do a lot of work with Tidy Towns and schools. He noted the problem was getting worse but the council had progressed prosecutions and enforcements.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Miley that a meeting be arranged with An Garda Síochána, Environment Section, Litter Wardens and other agencies in order to put together a taskforce to deal with this issue.

AY21/0118

Walkways around Mullaghreelan Woods, Kilkea

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Miley:
In light of the deteriorating condition of the walkways around Mullaghreelan Woods Kilkea, can the council work with Coillte to bring the walkways back up to a satisfactory level?

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Section informing the members that these are Coillte owned lands which are not the responsibility of the council and as such no resources are available for the purpose of upgrading walkways within Mullaghreelan Woods Kilkea.

Councillor Miley noted the report but he was disappointed with the response. He added that the walkways need to be upgraded as they had deteriorated over the years. The Manager in Coillte stated that some of the pathways would be upgraded and that he would like to meet with the council to discuss the woods in general.

The report was noted.

AY22/0118

Other Business

Councillor Breslin stated that she received an email during the meeting from the Cathaoirleach asking that a meeting be arranged to discuss pay parking in the District. This will be organised by the Roads Department.

The members agreed that the March monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District would take place in the Community Centre in Monasterevin.

The meeting then concluded.