

**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District held at 11.00 am on Monday, 13 May 2019 in
Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare**

Members Present: Ms A Breslin (Cathaoirleach), Councillors B Dooley, I Keatley, M Miley, T Redmond and M Wall.

Officials Present: Mr N Morrissey (District Manager), Mr J Coppinger (Senior Engineer), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Mr J Boland (Director of Services), Mr L Dunne and Ms E Wright (Senior Executive Officers), Mr F Ibrahim (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms A Louw (Senior Staff Officer), Ms P Berry (Marketing Officer), Ms A Cummins (Meetings Administrator) and Ms O Mooney (Meetings Secretary)

AY01/0519

Suspension of Standing Orders

The Cathaoirleach proposed to suspend standing orders at 11.00 am for twenty minutes in order to finish the in-committee meeting in session prior to the monthly meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by all the members that standing orders be suspended for twenty minutes until 11.20 am in order to finish the in-committee meeting in session prior to the monthly meeting. The monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District commenced at 11.20 am.

AY02/0519

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday, 15 April 2019 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday, 15 April 2019 be taken as read. The progress report was noted.

AY03/0519

Update - Schedule of Municipal District Roadworks

A report from the District Engineer was circulated to the members prior to the meeting. The members thanked him for his comprehensive report. Councillor Miley thanked the District Engineer and his staff for their continued hard work. Following a discussion, the members made the following points;

- that the hedgecutting at Lipstown Lower and Old Grange Cross be prioritised as currently the road was nearly impassable.
- that the roads staff along with the community be thanked for clearing fallen trees the previous Saturday.

The report was noted.

AY04/0519

Update - Community and Development Issues

Ms Berry circulated a report to the members prior to the meeting. The members thanked Ms Berry for her continued great work and stated that she was a prime example of a public servant who goes way and above the call of duty.

The Cathaoirleach left the chair and Councillor Keatley took the chair.

The report was noted.

AY05/0519

Athy Distributor Road

Councillor Redmond asked whether leaflets would be circulated to the residents who were being affected by this project. Mr Coppinger said he would prepare a leaflet in the near future.

Mr Coppinger stated that the project was progressing. He stated he had discussions with the Department of Transport and that funding for Phase 1 was secure and once the service to treat notice had been served, the money had to be spent. The funding for the remainder of the project would be sought and secured. He added that the main contract was on target and work on the main contract should commence early next year.

The District Manager re-iterated that the contract was on target and he added that as this was an urgent piece of road structure that the council would continue to put pressure on the Department of Transport for funding.

Councillor Breslin resumed the chair.

AY06/0519

Uniform Signage - Athy Municipal District

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

That the council put uniform signage, example: (Welcome To KILMEAD), promoting the towns and villages within the municipal district and the county emblem and St Bridget's cross should be included on the signs. This could then be extended to all municipal districts across the county.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this issue was discussed at the Transport Safety and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee on 2 May 2019. The members were in agreement to include the issue on the SPC's 2019 programme of works.

Councillor Miley stated he was happy with the report. He added uniformity of signage specific for County Kildare would help greatly with tourism and would be of great benefit to the county.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor Wall and agreed by the members that the design of this uniformity signage be included on the Transport Safety and Emergency SPC 2019 programme of works.

AY07/0519

Promotion of Mile A Day

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

That the Athy Municipal District lead the way and engage with local primary schools in our municipal district in promoting a " Mile A Day" for the month of September for all students. This "MAD" month would pilot a programme of fitness and well being of all our children.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the aim of 'Mile a Day' or the 'Daily Mile' was to improve the physical, social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing of children. The 'Mile a Day' or 'Daily Mile' project was a social physical activity, with children running or jogging at their own pace. The council's Road Safety Officer was currently working with schools on a Walk to School initiative, which differs from the above initiative. Most of the planned activities would take place in school grounds or in the vicinity of the schools.

Councillor Dooley stated he had attended a meeting with the HSE and it was noted that a number of children were not actively involved in sports or activities in their schools. He added that every school should be able to facilitate such a day in their curriculum. He suggested that a well-being flag should be introduced and that such a day could be held in September 2019 in all the schools. He added that a sustainable programme be put in place for future years.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Redmond that the report be noted.

AY08/0519

Taking in charge of the Stream Area - Calverstown Village

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

That the council take in charge the stream area in the centre of the Calverstown Village on behalf of the community so it can be properly maintained by Calverstown Action Network (Tidy Towns) as per recommendation of numerous National Tidy Towns judging panels.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the taking in charge process can only be investigated following a request from the property owner.

Councillor Keatley stated that this matter was ongoing for over ten years. The centre of the village up to five years ago was looked after by the local Tidy Towns group. Sometime later, the group were approached by the owner of this property and were advised not to maintain the area in question. He added the council had previously owned this piece of land but it was taken over by this private individual. The judging panels of tidy towns competitions had been asking over the last number of years why this piece of land had not been maintained. He asked that the owner be contacted and that this matter be resolved in order to help the community with the tidy towns competitions.

Councillor Wall stated that the Roads Section should engage with the owner to find a resolution to these problems.

The District Engineer noted this issue was ongoing. He suggested that maybe the Public Realm Group in place might be able to take a look at this problem.

Ms Wright confirmed that the taking in charge of this piece of land was not appropriate unless it was requested by the owner.

The District Manager stated he would speak with Councillor Keatley after the meeting in regard to finding a solution to this problem. He added it was a difficult situation and it would not be suitable to refer to the Public Realm Group.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Wall that the report be noted and that the District Manager would speak with Councillor Keatley after the meeting. This matter to remain on the progress report.

AY09/0519

Remedial Works - Footpaths in Ashville, Athy

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin:
Can the council confirm if it has plans to carry out remedial works to the footpaths in Ashville, Athy?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that a survey would be required to check the condition of footpaths in Ashville. The Athy municipal district office can then quantify the cost of any remedial works. The report was noted.

AY10/0519

Wastewater Treatment Plants - Villages of Timolin, Moone, Narraghmore, Kilmeade, Kilberry and Kildangan

The members considered the following joint motion in the names of Councillors Keatley, Miley, Dooley, Wall, Breslin and Redmond:

That the council send a representative from the Kildare County Council Water Services Capital and Minor Capital Office to explain why remedial and increased capacity work on Waste Water Treatment Plants in the villages of Timolin, Moone, Narraghmore, Kilmeade, Kilberry and Kildangan are not being progressed.

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

Councillor Keatley thanked the members for supporting this motion. He stated he had contacted Irish Water separately and he received a reply stating that they were waiting on instruction from the council and planning issues were to be resolved. He was informed that they were waiting on further notification in regard to Narraghmore of what capital upgrade works were required. In regard to Kilberry, they were waiting on an assessment needs brief in order to process works. In regard to Timolin, they received an assessment needs brief and funding had been provided by Irish Water and the council should upgrade in the near future.

Councillor Redmond stated that Kilberry was over-capacity and Kildangan wastewater was being tankered. He added houses cannot be built unless services are available.

Following a discussion, the members made the following points;

- an upgrade was required for all the sewerage plants mentioned in the motion
- Need to hear from the Capital and Minor Capital Office of Irish Water as there was no sewerage capacity in any of the mentioned villages in order to build houses.
- Decisions by the Planning Section are forcing people from the municipal district to move across borders into other counties.

Mr Boland stated he understood fully the frustration of the members. He asked Councillor Keatley to forward him the email he had received from Irish Water. Councillor Keatley stated he would but added there was a serious breakdown in communication between the council and Irish Water.

Mr Boland stated he did ask the Capital and Minor Capital Office of Irish Water to attend the meeting but they declined. He added that since 1 January 2014, the council were agents of Irish Water. He outlined the following to the members;

- capacity at Castledermot was satisfactory
- capacity at Ballitore was satisfactory
- The puraflo system was decommissioned at sewerage plant 1 in Kildangan
- The puraflo system to be upgraded at a cost of €850,000 to be addressed at sewerage plant 2 in Kildangan.
- The Part 8 was approved in 2017/2018 for sewerage plant in Timolin. However, funding still had to be approved under the National Certificate of Authorisation Programme. Also under the Small Towns/Villages Programme which was due to be finalised in Quarter 3 they might be able to get funding for a plant in Timolin and it should be cleared by the Regulator later this year.
- A new plant was required at Moone at a cost of €500,000.
- With regard to Kilberry, the council did submit an asset needs brief to Irish Water and it was refused.
- With regard to Kilmeade, the plant was to be put into public ownership.
- With regard to Narraghmore, a long-term upgrade was required and this would be funded under the National Certificate of Authorisation Programme or the Small Towns/Villages Programme.

Mr Boland added that some of the projects would commence and some would not.

Mr Ibrahim confirmed that the small villages/towns scheme would be finalised in Quarter 3. He explained that the email sent to Councillor Keatley was from the Administration Section of Irish Water. The Asset Planning Manager gave his response to the council directly. He stated that Irish Water would design the project and the council would supervise the scheme only.

Councillor Wall asked for reassurance that the plant at Timolin would be sorted out by Quarter 3 as the Part 8 had already been approved back in 2017.

Mr Boland stated that the National Certificate of Authorisation Scheme would be announced later in Quarter 4 and the plant at Timolin could progress under the small towns/villages scheme which would be finalised in Quarter 3. He noted that he did give assurances for the Part 8 Timolin Plant back in 2017 and he would do his best to prioritise this project. He added at the moment, he was waiting to see what projects would proceed, waiting on funding and criteria and waiting for these two schemes to happen.

The Cathaoirleach requested that a meeting be arranged with Irish Water, Water Services and the members after the new council had been formed in order to progress this matter. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Redmond that a meeting be arranged between Irish Water, Water Services and the members after the new council had been formed in order to progress this matter.

AY11/0519

Implementation of Jake's Law - Athy Municipal District

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wall:
Can the council update its members on the implementation of Jake's Law within the housing estates of the Athy Municipal District?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that at their monthly meeting held in October 2018, they were advised that the installation of signage associated with Jakes Law would be dealt with as part of the County Wide Speed Limit Review. It was proposed to install signage in all housing estates,

in charge, on a phased basis and subject to funding. Work on the Speed Limit Review was ongoing and it was anticipated that the public consultation phase would take place later in the year.

Ms Wright confirmed that the resources were now available and a team were in place and a report should be ready by Quarter 4. She confirmed that the work would be carried out on a phased basis subject to funding and a programme of work for each municipal district would be created.

Councillor Wall stated that without Jake's Law, speeding in housing estates would continue and he added that if it required extra funding that local property tax could help.

The District Manager stated that funding was available from Central Funding but local property tax was an alternative option.

The report was noted.

AY12/0519

Building of Blueway

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wall:
Can the council now confirm that it will proceed with the building of the Blueway from Lowtown, Roberstown to the town of Athy given that An Bord Pleanála upheld the decision of Kildare County Council to grant permission for this?

A report was received from the Planning Section informing the members that the council are working closely with Waterways Ireland on the delivery of the Barrow Blueway as approved. The overall delivery of the project was a matter for Waterways Ireland and the Council are considering the establishment of a team to work with the applicant on the delivery of the project.

The report was noted.

AY13/0519

Road Repairs - R448 at the Spratstown Junction L8033

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

Can the council change the centre road lining to a double white line on the R448 at the Spratstown Junction L8033 as previously requested by this committee as an urgent matter of road safety?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that work was to commence on the lining of this junction in the coming weeks. The report was noted.

AY14/0519

Erection of Illuminated Warning Signs on bend on the R747 at Portersize, Ballitore

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

Can the council erect illuminated warning signage at the 90 degree bend on the R747 at Portersize, Ballitore in light of the large number of single vehicle accidents taking place there?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that work would be carried out on the signage at this location in the coming weeks.

The report was noted.

AY15/0519

Access to Occupational Pension Scheme - Community Access Supervisors

The members considered the following joint motion in the name of Councillors Breslin and Wall: That the Athy Municipal District Committee calls on the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to implement and honour the recommendations of the Labour Court in 2008 to allow Community Access Supervisors access to an occupational pension scheme.

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

The Cathaoirleach was informed that this strike was suspended after negotiations. Councillor Wall said he was aware of what these supervisors do and he said these supervisors were up at the Dail looking for their pensions. He said he hoped there would be a positive outcome to this matter.

The members thanked the Minister for engaging with the Unions and hoped for a positive outcome.

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

AY16/0519

Report from the Municipal District representatives on the Finance Committee

The members were circulated with a report prior to the meeting.

The report was noted.

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

AY17/0519

Provision of Columbarium Wall in St Michael's Cemetery, Athy

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

Can the council give an update in relation to the provision of a columbarium wall in St. Michael's Cemetery, Athy?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that as part of the Council's cemetery development programme, significant improvement works had been carried out at St Michael's New Cemetery in Athy. The Environment Department had made arrangements in a number of cemeteries in the county for the interment of cremated remains through the provision of dedicated ash plots and columbarium walls. It was proposed that such options would be considered for the Athy Cemetery as part of next year's Work Programme 2020.

The Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that she understood that this work was to be carried out under this years programme.

Mr Dunne stated it was intended to be carried out this year. However, it would now be carried out early next year.

AY18/0519

Infrastructural Works - Old Part of St Michael's Cemetery, Athy

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

Can the council outline a plan and the time frame for urgent infrastructural works in what is now the old part of the new St Michael's cemetery?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that as part of the Council's cemetery development programme, significant improvement works had been carried out at St Michael's New Cemetery in Athy. This had included the upgrade of car-park area, surfacing and kerbing of roadways, provision of water point and tree pruning. These works are now substantially complete. Additional works in the remaining areas would be progressed in early 2020.

The report was noted.

AY19/0519

Part 8 Report - Shackleton Museum

The report was circulated to the members prior to the meeting.

The members thanked the Athy Heritage Museum Committee for all their hard work in this regard and they asked for a breakdown as to how the money would be spent.

The District Manager thanked the members for passing this Part 8 and it would bring long awaited tourism to this region. Funding would be provided under the Rural Regeneration Fund and design would start for the Shackleton Museum and Emily Square. This project would cost €5 million. Extra funding would be sought from private and corporate donations from all over the world.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by all members that the members accepted the Chief Executive's Part 8 report for the proposed Shackleton Museum be carried out as recommended

AY20/0519

Tree Pruning

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

Can the council carry out tree pruning works in several estates in Athy and Castledermot, namely Ashville, St Patrick's Avenue, Kingsgrove, Graysland, William Pearce Terrace and Churchroad towards the railway station in Athy?

A report was received from the Senior Executive Parks Superintendent informing the members that the pruning works in the locations listed were to be considered under the next program of works.

The report was noted.

AY21/0519

Other Business

The Cathaoirleach wished all the members running for election the best of luck on their campaign trail. She thanked Councillor Miley for his years on the council and all the great work carried out by him. The members thanked the former District Manager and the current District Manager , all the staff and press for their continued support.

The District Manager congratulated Councillor Breslin on her year as Cathaoirleach and thanked her for her dedication to the job. He wished Councillor Miley well and he remembered his trip with Councillor Miley when he was Cathaoirelach to St Patrick's Day Parade in New York a few years ago. He wished all members running for re-election the very best of luck.

The meeting concluded.