



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District held at 11.00 am on Monday, 20 January 2020 in Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare**

**Members Present:** Councillor M Wall (Cathaoirleach), Councillors V Behan, A Breslin, B Dooley and I Keatley.

**Officials Present:** Ms A Aspell (District Manager) Mr G Halton (Senior Executive Officer), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer) Mr J Coppinger (Senior Engineer) Ms C Barrett (Chief Fire Officer) Ms Edel O' Brien (Executive Engineer) Mr J Hennessy (Executive Engineer) Mr J Murtagh (Executive Engineer) Ms P Berry (Marketing Officer), Mr. B Leonard (Administrative Officer) Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator) Ms S Fitzgerald (Meetings Secretary).

---

**AY01/0120**

**Minutes**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday, 09 December 2019 together with the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley and seconded by Councillor Breslin that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday 09 December 2019 be taken as read and the progress report noted.

**Matters Arising**

**AY02/0120**

**AY19/0919 Model School Athy**

Following a discussion by the members they agreed that this item should be listed on the February Agenda.



**AY03/0120**

**Athy Municipal District Roadworks**

The District Engineer informed the members that drainage works, Restoration Improvement Program and patching were currently being undertaken throughout the municipal district.

The members raised the following points:

- Following recent road works on the Baltinglass to Castledermot road further repairs were required
- Could the start date for the Square in Narraghmore be confirmed?

The District Engineer confirmed the following:

- He noted the damage to the Baltinglass to Castledermot road
- Works for the Square in Narraghmore were scheduled to commence in the next fortnight

**AY04/0120**

**Athy Distributor Road**

Mr J Hennessy and Mr J Coppinger gave an update on the Athy Distributor Road. There were a number of advance works contracts on-going on the project, these included: railway removal, utility diversions, fencing off the site and a small quantum of accommodation works. It was anticipated that the main contract would go to tender in March/April 2020 with a contractor likely to be appointed in September 2020.

The following points were raised by the members:

- Were the timelines correct?
- Boat users had concerns if the air draft under the bridge was sufficient
- Which side of the town would the project commence i.e. Dublin Road or Kilkenny Road?
- Would there be any penalties placed on the contractor if the project was not finished on time? If not, could this be included in the contract?
- Would there be press releases to advertise road closures?



## Kildare County Council

---

The Senior Engineer and the Executive Engineer confirmed the following:

- Timelines were on target
- The bridge was designed in accordance with the appropriate TII standards, they would confirm with the scheme designers whether the air draft was sufficient.
- The contractor (once identified) would confirm the location for the commencement of works.
- Mr Hennessey would update the members once a contractor was appointed
- A timeframe would be included in the contract, but penalty clauses were not included as a standard condition
- There was an informal pathway by the canal which would be kept open
- There would be notices of closures advertised via press releases

### **AY05/0120**

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

The Cathaoirleach requested that standing orders be suspended for a period of 5 minutes to facilitate a discussion amongst the members in relation to the LPT Schedule of Works 2020.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Breslin with all members present agreeing that standing orders be suspended for a period 5 minutes at 11.10 a.m. The meeting recommenced at 11.15 a.m.

### **AY06/0120**

#### **Athy Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2020**

The members considered the Athy Municipal District LPT Schedule of Works 2020 including the agreed list of roads projects (see Appendix A attached).

**Resolved** on the proposal by Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by all members present that the Athy Municipal District LPT Schedule of works 2020 including the agreed list of roads projects be approved.



**AY07/0120**

**Deputation from “In It To Bin It Athy” (TÚS)**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Rona Toft from “In It To Bin It Athy” (TÚS) to the meeting. Ms Toft gave a general overview of the campaign. “In It To Bin It Athy” which was a programme to target mindset around littering in the town of Athy to reduce litter.

Their projects include:

- Wall mounted mini cigarette butt bins
- Reusable cups incentive
- Reverse vending machine
- Transition year inclusion programme
- Water re-fill stations

The members raised the following points:

- Would this program be extended further than Athy?
- Were they trying to raise awareness or was funding being sought?
- Parking Vouchers in return for used plastic would be a good idea
- Extend an invite for the TY students to showcase their work
- The water re-fill stations would be on the February agenda
- The members agreed to receive a presentation from the TY students of Ardscoil na Tríonóide and Athy College at the February meeting

Ms Toft commented the following:

- The programme was initially for one year but had now exceeded that
- In It To Bin It needed support and funding from the council and the members

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the members receive a presentation from the TY students of Ardscoil na Tríonóide and Athy College at the February meeting.



**AY08/0120**

**Taking in Charge of Castle Raven, Nurney.**

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

That the council update this Municipal District Committee on the taking in charge of Castle Raven, Nurney.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Keatley.

A report was received from the Building and Development Control Section informing the members that the file on the estate needed to be reviewed to ensure that the council had all the required documentation to progress the taking in charge (TIC) process. The CCTV drainage survey that was on VCR tape had been copied to DVD. The CCTV survey needed to be reviewed and marked up on the As Constructed Drawings (ACD). The estate needed to be snagged for surface defects and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would need to be submitted to Irish Water to proceed with TIC. The council would also require the co-operation from the developer to progress the TIC. The Development Control Section was exceptionally busy, but the council would endeavor to progress the TIC of Castle Raven.

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

**AY09/0120**

**Flooding on the L8051 Marshalstown, Castledermot**

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

That the council resolve the persistent flooding on the L8051 Marshalstown, Castledermot.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Breslin.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this work would be carried out in the coming weeks as part of the Athy Municipal District Drainage Programme.



## Kildare County Council

---

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

### **AY10/0120**

#### **Upgrade to Sweep Lane, Nurney**

The Cathaoirleach requested Item 8 and 17 be taken together. All members agreed.

#### **Item 8:**

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

That the council complete the upgrade to Sweep Lane, Nurney.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Breslin.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the first section of the lane was upgraded in 2018 with LPT monies. There was no money made available in 2019 to complete the works. Kildare County Council owned property along this lane and there appeared to be no plan for these lands. This lane would require a long-term plan in relation to development of roads, footpaths, public lighting and surface water drainage etc.

The members raised the following points:

- The land had money allocated for Social Housing
- Could a response be given from Housing and Architects?
- Trees reaching over to the estate behind had not been cut despite an agreement in May 2019 that this would be done.
- Could the members be advised of the long-term plan for works to be carried out on Sweep Lane?

The District Manager informed the members she would contact the Architects Section for a reply and there would be no funding through the Housing Section for these works.



## Kildare County Council

---

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Breslin that the report be noted, and the District Manager contact the Architect Section for further information in relation to future plans on Sweep Lane.

### **Tidy up of Lands of Sweep Lane in Nurney**

#### **Item 17:**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wall.  
Can the council confirm when they will complete a tidy up of their lands of Sweep Lane in Nurney as previously agreed?

A report was received from the A/Senior Architect informing the members that following a previous request the site in Nurney was assessed by Architectural Services in early May 2019. At that stage the site was bound by 3 walls which were in a good state of repair. The fourth boundary to the road was open and allowed access to the site but there was no evidence of unauthorised access. The site had several trees and overgrown grass and bushes. These did not appear to be interfering with any adjacent properties. There was no evidence of largescale dumping on the site on the day of the visit that would have needed to be brought to the attention of the Environment Section. It was agreed that no works needed to be completed to the site at this stage.

Note that this site was zoned residential and suitable for approximately 25 units but there was currently a constraint on the wastewater system in Nurney and the site could not be developed until additional capacity was provided on the Wastewater system.

The report was noted.

### **AY11/0120**

#### **Winter Preparation for the Athy Municipal District**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Wall.  
That the council outline its winter preparation for the Athy Municipal District including salting routes for the area and if they have or will consult with local community groups in preparation for such events.



## Kildare County Council

---

The motion was proposed by Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Dooley.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the salting routes and winter preparation plans were upgraded each year. The salting routes were on the Kildare County Council website. On nights when the Road Surface Temperatures fall below Zero Degrees Celsius, the 10 salting trucks carry out salting on routes that are determined and agreed in advance. At the present time, the salting routes are at the limit of our manpower/vehicle resources.

The members raised the following points:

- Would there be any other roads included on this route?
- Would the community text alert be used more for weather warnings?
- Rural roads are not included on the route

The District Engineer confirmed the following points:

- There were 10 salting routes covering 700KM of roads per night
- If the members wished to have additional routes included in the 2021 routes, this would be considered in the summer of 2020

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

### **AY12/0120**

#### **Street Cleaning and Emptying of Litter Bins**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Behan.

That the council include extra street cleaning and emptying of litter bins on the days of and in the vicinity of, major licensed events in this municipal district.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Dooley.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that when any Athy Municipal District sanctioned events were being





## Kildare County Council

---

held, the Athy Municipal District would make provision for extra street cleaning/litter bin emptying before and after the event.

The following points were raised by the members:

- The bins were too full, could the focus be on the day of and the day before any scheduled events
- Emphasis should be put on the stallholders of the weekly market to clean up

The District Engineer reported that any Municipal District sanctioned events were co-ordinated with the organisers for the clean-up.

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

### **AY13/0120**

#### **Upgrade of the Public Lighting in Narraghmore**

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

Can the council outline the timeline for the upgrade of the public lighting in Narraghmore?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that lighting at this location was to be upgraded as part of the National Public Lighting Upgrade Project. It was anticipated that Region 2, which included Kildare, would go to tender in 2020 with a two-year installation period for the region. At present, municipal district commencement dates were not available. However, the members would be informed once these dates were confirmed.

The report was noted.

### **AY14/0120**

#### **Weight Restrictions on Roads in the Municipal District**

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

Can the council outline the procedure for determining if weight restrictions are required on roads in the municipal district where residents are concerned over heavy traffic volumes?



## **Kildare County Council**

---

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing them that there were weight restrictions on public roads. An Garda Síochána enforce these weight restrictions. This issue should be brought up at the JPC to ensure a consistent approach is adopted throughout Kildare.

The report was noted.

### **AY15/0120**

#### **Development of Houses in Flinters Field**

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

Can the council give a defined timescale for the development of 35 houses by Respond in Flinters Field?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Respond had provided the following update: - The CALF funding application is currently being prepared for submission to the Dept. of Housing, Planning and Local Government and subject to approval being received, it is anticipated that a contractor will be appointed in March 2020 and the units will take 80 weeks to complete (Quarter 4, 2021).

The report was noted.

### **AY16/0120**

#### **Repair or Upgrade of Council Property**

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

Can the council confirm what is the average time for a council property in this municipal district to be brought back into use after repairs or upgrading, for both major and minor works?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that regarding overall turnaround timelines; the published NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report for 2018 shows that Kildare County Council had a turnaround time of 26.83 weeks, this was a cumulative figure and included major and minor works. The full report could be accessed via the following link: <http://noac.ie/noac-reports/>

The report was noted.



**AY17/0120**

**Drainage Channel Maintenance Programme for 2020**

Ms O'Brien gave an overview on the Drainage Channel Maintenance Programme for 2020 as follows:

- The Drainage Channel Maintenance Crew consisted of 2 general operatives and a general site supervisor who were shared between Kildare County Council and Offaly County Council (both councils had the same number of staff)
- Works carried out by the crew included silt, vegetation management, aquatic vegetation cutting, bank protection, tree cutting, branch trimming and bridge and structure repairs
- In-stream works with machinery were limited to the months of July, August and September and tree cutting was limited to between September and February and works in watercourses which were Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or discharged into SACs required an Appropriate Assessment to be carried out before any works could be done
- All works were carried out in accordance with the OPW Environmental Management Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures for Drainage Maintenance Service and with the Councils own Health and Safety requirements
- Other issues which could affect works included restrictions from Inland Fisheries Ireland, such as the current restrictions aimed at minimising the impact of the crayfish plague currently in the River Slate and the River Barrow
- Works were limited to drainage districts or locations where flood relief schemes had been constructed under the Local Authorities Works Act 1949
- There were currently three drainage districts within the Athy Municipal District. These are sections of the Barrow Drainage District, the Lerr Drainage District and the Griese Drainage District.
- Maintenance was carried out on the Umeras stream in 2019, the Athy stream (upper reaches of the Moneen) in 2018 and the main Barrow channel in 2017 which form part of the Barrow Drainage District, with annual maintenance carried out around the sluice gates in Ardreich and on the Moneen River.
- Works are proposed on sections of the River Lerr and River Griese in 2020 (Lerr & Griese Drainage District) and on the Barrow (Barrow Drainage District) in 2021, subject



## Kildare County Council

---

to coordination with Laois County Council. These works are subject to the restrictions listed above.

The following points were raised by the members:

- What was the budget for the 2020 program?
- The silt was only being cleaned from the top of the River Lerr
- The tidy towns had requested a Bio-diversity study be carried out
- That a mechanical digger should be used to clean the River Lerr
- Could press releases be put out to let the public know what works will be carried out
- The proposed site for the playground is on a floodplain
- It was agreed to issue a letter to Inland Fisheries Ireland on behalf of the members outlining their concerns raised at the meeting
- When would the works be carried out in Athy

Ms O'Brien confirmed the following points:

- The annual budget was €285,000 which had to cover the cost of staff and machinery
- The River Lerr had a gravel bed that had restrictions in place
- The river is cleaned by machinery, in Castledermot it was difficult to use the machinery around the bridge
- Under the current restrictions on the Crayfish plague, the machines would need to be cleaned twice to prevent bacteria spreading
- There was a plan in place to raise the ground at the site proposed for the playground to prevent flooding
- Drainage district maps were available to view on the OPW website
- It was hoped to review works in Quarter 1/Quarter 2 2020 as part of The National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme and have consultants appointed this year.



**AY18/0120**

**Dog Pound in Portersize**

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

That the council provide an update regarding the extension to the dog pound in Portersize, Athy.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Behan.

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment Department informing the members that the extension to the dog pound was nearing completion. Some electrical and landscaping works remained to be carried out and these should be finalised shortly.

The members raised the following points:

- Owners needed to take responsibility for their dogs given the fact it was lambing season soon
- The item to remain on the progress report
- Contact had been made with the Environment Section and An Garda Síochána

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Behan that the report was noted and this item to remain on the progress report.

**AY19/0120**

**Flooding Alleviation Works at Ballyhade, Castledermot**

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

Can the council confirm when they will be in a position to complete flooding alleviation works at Ballyhade, Castledermot?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the work at Ballyhade, Castledermot would be carried out in the coming weeks as part of the Athy Municipal District Drainage Program.

The report was noted.



**AY20/0120**

**Remedial and Upgrading Works to St. Michael's Graveyard, Athy**

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

Can the council confirm the programme of remedial and upgrading works to be carried out in the next 12 months to St. Michael's Graveyard, Athy?

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment Department informing the members that the Director of Services had arranged a meeting with the councillor on site to discuss a possible further phase of work in Athy Cemetery, mainly relating to footpaths, kerbs and internal roadway.

The report was noted.

**AY21/0120**

**Proposed Extension and Redevelopment at Gallowshill, Athy**

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

Can the council confirm when the proposed extension and redevelopment of the council's facility at Gallowshill, Athy will commence?

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment Department informing the members that there were no plans at present for developing or extending Gallowshill Civic Amenity Site.

The report was noted.

**AY22/0120**

**Bord Na Móna, Kilberry**

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

That this council invite representatives of Bord na Móna and Coillte to a meeting to discuss the future developments of Bord Na Móna, Kilberry.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Wall.



## Kildare County Council

---

A report was received from the Head of Enterprise informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree. The Head of Enterprise had viewed the site and was agreeable to meet both companies to discuss the future development of Bord na Móna, Kilberry. A draft agenda could be agreed with the members so that all parties could prepare for such a meeting.

The following points were raised by the members:

- 850 – 1000 acres of unused bog
- Could a program of works to plant trees be established with Bord na Móna and Coillte
- This would be an ideal site for a national recycling centre/energy storage (green energy)

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Wall that the report be noted and it was agreed that an invitation be issued to Bord na Móna and Coillte to attend a meeting with council officials and members to discuss the future developments of Bord Na Móna, Kilberry.

### **AY23/0120**

#### **Invitation to Meet with Representatives from the Company Monster**

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

That this council extend an invitation to meet with representatives from the company Monster, to offer our full support and commitment to their business development in Athy.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Behan.

A report was received from the Head of Enterprise informing the members that The Chief Executive of Kildare County Council and the Economic Department had already offered all assistance to the Monster Company and had been in discussions with the IDA regarding the company's plans for Athy. The company had expressed their need for time to review the plant and surrounding grounds before finalising their roll-out plan.

The following points were raised by the members:



## Kildare County Council

---

- Could Kildare County Council and the IDA consider full production of soft drinks as well as concentrate at this site
- Monster had the potential to be recognised as an international base for Athy
- The CEO & Head of Enterprise have had communications with the company Monster
- It was very important that the company be given time to roll out their plans

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Behan that this report be noted.

### **AY24/0120**

#### **Floral Window Boxes**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Behan. That the council provide funding for an initiative to encourage businesses and homeowners on the main streets in the towns and villages in this municipal district, to have floral window boxes to improve the visual impact and to support biodiversity.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Dooley.

A report was received from the Meetings Administrator informing the members that a source of funding would need to be identified for this proposed initiative. Perhaps the members could consider funding for this initiative as part of their LPT allocations.

The following points were raised by the members:

- This item should be considered with the Shop Front Scheme
- This would have a positive effect on the Athy Municipal District
- The flower boxes would be a good way of disguising underground cables.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Dooley that this report be noted.

The meeting concluded.