



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting held at 10.00 am on
Monday, 18 October 2021 in the Council Chamber, Aras Chill Dara, Naas,
Co Kildare**

Members Present: Councillor I Keatley (Cathaoirleach), Councillors A Breslin, B Dooley and M Leigh

Apologies: Councillor V Behan

Officials Present: Ms A Aspell (District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Mr D Reel (Senior Engineer), Mr James Malone (Senior Executive Engineer) Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer) Ms P Pender (A/Senior Executive Officer), Ms F Millane (A/Head of Finance), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator) and Ms O Mooney (Meetings Secretary) and other officials

AY01/1021

Taking of the Chair

Leas-Cathaoirleach, Councillor Dooley took the chair as the Cathaoirleach had been delayed.

The Leas-Cathaoirleach stated that Mr Malone, Senior Executive Engineer, Building and Development Control wished to introduce two new members of his team to the members. He introduced Mr Gearoid Hoban and Mr Sean Leahy to the members and stated that a meeting would be arranged at a later stage between them and the members once the new team members settled in. The members stated they hoped that they could all work together to help finish out taking in charge of estates in the municipal district and find resolutions to issues as they arose.



AY02/1021

Declaration of pecuniary or beneficial interests

The Cathaoirleach asked if there were any declarations to be made at this time. There were no declarations from the members of pecuniary or beneficial interests under Section 177 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

AY03/0921

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday 20 September 2021 and the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Leigh, seconded by Councillor Breslin and agreed by all the members that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday, 20 September 2021 be adopted, and the progress report was noted.

AY04/1021

Update of the Athy Distributor Road

Mr Reel stated that the letter of acceptance regarding the Athy Distributor Road main works had issued on Tuesday 12 October 2021 to the successful contractor, BAM Civil Limited. It was expected that works would start onsite in the next number of weeks (end of November) with the initial works comprising of site setup, site clearance, fencing works and utility diversions. It was expected that the extensive earthworks operations would commence in the first quarter of 2022 and further updates would be provided once more information was to hand. He recommended that a quarterly update instead of a monthly update be given to the members once construction commenced.

The following points were raised by the members;

- Huge opportunity for Athy as this project had been on the cards for many decades.
- Would the council have a Project Manager/Team to oversee this project?



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Mr Reel stated that a Project Team would be in place to manage construction works. The team would consist of six people of site, three initially and a further three as the project progresses.

The members agreed that updates be given quarterly instead of monthly as construction commenced.

AY05/1021

Update on the Athy Municipal District Road Works

The District Engineer stated that a comprehensive report had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting providing an update on works which had been undertaken prior to and since their last meeting and also details of future works.

The following points were raised by the members;

- When would they get an update on survey of bins in the municipal district?
- When would the salting routes be finalised for this year?

The District Engineer stated that the survey had been completed i.e., photographs taken of each bin and its locations mapped. It was found that most of the bins needed replacement. He added that a schedule of replacement was required, and he would have to liaise with the Environment Section with regard to funding. He suggested that the bins in the Town Centre/Square be replaced first and then work their way out. He invited the members to take a look at the survey. He added that he had been looking at different designs of bins with a smaller opening in order to allow for casual litter and not household rubbish to be collected, and these examples would be shown to the members in due course.

The Cathaoirleach asked that this survey be emailed to the members after the meeting.

The District Engineer stated that the salting route was the same as last year and would start today 18 October 2021 up to April 2022. Currently, there were ten lorries and they were



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fully loaded. If the members want a new route to be added, then an existing route would have to be removed.

The report was noted.

AY06/1021

Taking of the Chair

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Keatley joined the meeting and he thanked Councillor Dooley for chairing the meeting in his absence.

AY07/1021

Footpaths along Dukes Street, Athy

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

That a work programme be implemented to design and replace the footpaths along Dukes Street, Athy, ensuring that the council provide mobility and access for all users.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the cost of maintenance/replacement of footpaths along the N78 in Athy (including Duke Street) was a matter for the TII. Kildare County Council had a discussion with TII regarding resurfacing and replacement of footpaths along the N78. The Municipal District Office would keep the members updated on the progress of these discussions.

The following matters were raised by the members;

- What was the timeline when funding would be provided by the TII?
- Many businesses do not bring in their bins, left out for collection, on Friday mornings therefore, creating less space on footpaths which were already narrow, and this should be raised with them.



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The District Engineer stated that he could not give a timeline at this time. He stated that the footpaths had been replaced in 2000 except the narrow spot at Shaws. Discussions had taken place with the TII at the time, prior to Covid 19, when it was hoped to carry out this work in conjunction with the Athy Distributor Road works.

Total revamping of roads and footpaths need to be carried out from Canal Bridge to Railway Bridge as the footpaths were 22 years old and the road surface was last done in 2012 and hopefully the TII would pay for this.

The Cathaoirleach asked for the meetings with TII to be recommenced in order to follow up on funding for these works.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Breslin that the report be noted and that the meetings with the TII be reconvened again in order to follow up on funding for these works and that the members be kept informed.

AY08/1021

Jakes Law

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

Can the council confirm if “Jakes law” will be introduced automatically in the Athy Municipal District, after the speed limit review?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that following requests to extend the Kildare County Council Speed Limit Review 2021, the Public Consultation Period had been extended beyond the summer holiday period. The closing date for submissions was Thursday 16 September 2021. The making of Speed Limit Bylaws was a reserved function of the members of the Local Authority. It was premature to develop an implementation plan until the process was complete.

The report was noted.



AY09/1021

Old Section of the New St Michael's Cemetery, Athy

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley:
That the council outline their plans for the old section of the new St Michael's Cemetery, in particular resurfacing of paths, pruning of trees and removing ivy from the walls at the entrance as a commitment to have works carried out was given last year.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that a tender competition was currently in progress for the re-surfacing works. It was envisaged that the procurement process would be completed in the coming weeks with appointment and scheduling of works to follow shortly afterwards.

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

AY10/1021

Replacement of Litter Bins – Athy

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley:
Can the council confirm when the litter bins in Athy will be replaced?

A report was received from the District Engineer informing the members that a survey of all the litter bins in Athy had been carried out. The survey indicates that a big portion of the bins need replacing. The Athy Municipal District office was seeking quotations for bins at the present time, with a view to a replacement schedule of as finances dictate.

Councillor Dooley indicated that this question had been answered earlier at the meeting and it was agreed that the survey would be circulated to the members after the meeting. The report was noted.



AY11/1021

Recommendation from the Decade of Commemoration Committee regarding erection of memorial in St Mary's Cemetery, Athy

The members considered a recommendation from the Decade of Commemorations Committee which recommended that each Municipal District provide funding (€12,000 per Municipal District) to reflect the county function of the Poor Law Union workhouse and the subsequent County Home. It stated that the memorial would commemorate all those buried in the grounds. However, as this cemetery was owned by the HSE, a letter was to issue from the Decade of Commemoration Committee requesting permission to erect this memorial in the cemetery.

Resolved with the agreement of the members that €12,000 of LPT funding be allocated to this memorial.

AY12/1021

Bridge in Kilkea

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

That the council put traffic calming measures or a one vehicle pass system on the bridge in Kilkea after a number of recent accidents there.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this location would be assessed on the basis of developing a low-cost safety improvement scheme project.

The following points were raised by the members;

- that a sensor traffic light be installed at this bridge in order to slow traffic coming towards the bridge.
- Consider some kind of traffic calming as many accidents had occurred at this location.



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The District Engineer stated that any works would be required to cost less than €30,000 to qualify for low-cost scheme. He suggested that a design and costing would need to be carried out to do a proper job and this would exceed €30,000. He stated he would put together some options for the members and then they could decide upon which option to go with.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Leigh, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the report be noted and that the District Engineer put together some options to alleviate the problem at this bridge and then the members could decide which one to go with.

AY13/1021

Athy Draft Budget Plan 2022

Ms Millane informed the members that Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 required that a draft budgetary plan for the municipal district be prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive and submitted for consideration by the municipal district members for each municipal district. This draft budgetary plan contains the discretionary funding which was made available to the municipal district members. The Act provides that the draft budgetary plan shall set out the general municipal allocation and shall be considered at a meeting within the prescribed period, but no later than 10 days prior to the local authority budget meeting (22 November 2021). The Act also provides that it is a reserved function of the members of a municipal district to adopt the draft budgetary plan either with or without amendments. If the members of a municipal district do not adopt a budgetary plan, the Chief Executive may take account of the draft budgetary plan, as presented to the members of that municipal district, without amendment. The total provision for the General Municipal Allocation for 2022 was €15,990,728 of which €5,44,420 was based on the retained LPT as voted by the members in July 2021. The total provisional general municipal allocation for the Athy Municipal District was €2,504,345.

The members raised the following points:

- Pay parking figures would hopefully look similar to pre-Covid 19 next year.
- The 30 minute “free parking” window had remained, and this had a significant impact on the income in this area.



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- Can the council look at introducing pay parking at the Dominicans car park (Athy Library) as it was currently free parking all day?
- The members needed to sit down together and go through this draft plan.

Ms Pender stated she would come back to the members regarding possible pay parking at the Dominican's carpark.

The District Manager re-iterated to the members that the timeframe would not allow for the members to have another meeting to discuss this draft plan unless the members wanted to put in an amendment at today's meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by the members present that the draft budgetary plan be adopted.

AY14/1021

Remedial Works – William Pearse Terrace, Castledermot

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

That the council carry out remedial works to the footpaths and back roads in William Pearse Terrace, Castledermot and as part of this upgrading works that additional public lighting be installed.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this work would have to be surveyed as there are drainage issues in this estate. A costing would have to be prepared and the work can be considered in light of LPT funding. The Public Lighting Section would visit the location of the requested new streetlight, and it would then be assessed using a priority system within Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule (KLIPS). Lighting schemes would be scored on various factors and placed within KLIPS according to that score. The lighting within KLIPS would be installed as and when funds become available and depending on where the request sits



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within KLIPS. It should be noted there was currently no budget available to progress any new installations at this time.

The following points were raised by the members;

- This was an old housing estate with a great residents association and community spirit between all those living there.
- Can the council carry out a survey before the end of 2021 and were there any monies left over from LPT?
- In regard to KLIPS lighting, would the new installation happen next year?

The District Engineer agreed that this old estate did require updating. The back entrances were never given any upgrade i.e., drainage, surface or development. The drainage would require to be sorted first, then a survey would need to be carried out on all the houses and then they would need to identify what surface would be required. A full design would be required for this project.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the report be noted and that the District Engineer come back to the members with a costing before the end of the year.

AY15/1021

Roadworks - Narraghmore to Kilrush Road

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

That the council carry out drainage works, provide passing points and resurface the Narraghmore to Kilrush Road as a matter of urgency.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Narraghmore to Kilrush road was on the 2022 list of projects to be carried out under the Restoration Improvement schemes.



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The District Engineer stated he would need to speak with locals regarding passing bays in order to alleviate reversing on this narrow road. This road had been surveyed and they would sort the drainage issues first and then the passing bays and road surfacing.

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

AY16/1021

Repair of the footpaths and small courtyard in the houses opposite the Castle Gates in Kilkea

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

Can the council give a specific start date for repair of the footpaths and small courtyard in the houses opposite the castle gates in Kilkea?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that a survey of this area had to be completed. A costing would have to be prepared and the work would then be considered in light of LPT funding.

The District Engineer stated that if the council were to do a small amount of work then it would highlight the rest of the work that would need to be carried out. A proper repair job would need to be done not just a quick fix. The members enquired if a costing could be given to them to consider before budget meetings.

The report was noted.

AY17/1021

Remedial Works to the back lanes of St Dominic's Park Athy

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

Can the council confirm when remedial works to the back lanes of St. Dominic's Park, Athy will commence?



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A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the work had been delayed due to works being undertaken by a third party looking to underground an overhead ESB cable at this location.

Following enquiry, the District Engineer stated there were issues with the ESB as underground cabling was required, and this had to be done first.

The report was noted.

AY18/1021

Upgrade – Public Lighting in Dun Brinn, Athy

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

Can the council confirm if there are any plans to upgrade the public lighting in Dun Brinn, Athy?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the public lighting in Dun Brinn, Athy was to be upgraded as part of the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project. There were no plans to upgrade the lighting at this location in advance of the project.

The report was noted.

AY19/1021

Invitation to Councillor Thomas Judge, Mayor of the City of Manchester

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

That this council invite Cllr Thomas Judge, the current Mayor of the City of Manchester, to be Grand Marshal at the Athy 2022 St. Patrick's Day parade.

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

The Cathaoirleach asked that an invitation be extended to Councillor Judge, Mayor of the City of Manchester as he had many family connections to the town of Athy.



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The District Manager stated that an invitation would issue in the name of Councillor Keatley, Cathaoirleach of the Athy Municipal District to Councillor Judge after the meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Leigh that an invitation would issue to Councillor Thomas Judge, Mayor of the City of Manchester from the Cathaoirleach, Athy Municipal District.

AY20/1021

Provision of a Water Source in St Mary's Famine Cemetery, Athy

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

That the council provide a water source in St Mary's Famine Cemetery for future planting and gardening.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that this cemetery was not in the charge of Kildare County Council and if the members agree, the matter should be referred to the HSE.

Mr Kavanagh stated that similar queries had arisen before about this cemetery which was not managed by the council. St Mary's Cemetery was located adjacent to the Grand Canal and was attached to the old workhouse/fever hospital now St. Vincent's on the outskirts of Athy. This was an old former workhouse graveyard. The council's understanding was that the HSE may be responsible for this cemetery.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Leigh, seconded by Councillor Breslin that the report be noted and that this matter be referred to the HSE.

AY21/1021

Mattress and Sofa Amnesty Day – Athy Amenity Centre

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

Can the council confirm if it will include Athy Amenity Centre to the next mattress and sofa amnesty day in conjunction with Silliot Hill?



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A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that the members would be aware that the Waste Amnesty day had been held at Silliot Hill Civic Amenity Site for the past two years to much success. Indeed, the 2021 event resulted in over 75 tons of waste mattresses and couches getting brought to the facility in a single day. It had been decided that, pending funding allocation and a more detailed site assessment; to hold the annual Waste Amnesty day in the north of the County in 2022. If funding allows, Athy Civic Amenity Site may be considered as part of the 2022 event also. Otherwise, Athy would be considered for priority in 2023.

The report was noted.

AY22/1021

Completion of Works – Sewerage Treatment Plants in Timolin and Nurney

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

Can the council give a timeframe for the completion of the works being carried out on the sewerage treatment plants in Timolin and Nurney?

A report was received from the Water Services Section informing the members that both these Wastewater Treatment Plants are listed for upgrade under the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme. Irish Water just recently confirmed that the green light had been given for the upgrade of the Timolin Plant. There was no timeline available at this stage.

Nurney Wastewater Treatment Plant remains ranked at no. 3 on the priority list but approval has **not** been given by Irish Water as yet (subject to available funding).

The Cathaoirleach understood that funding was to include Timolin and Nurney. He stated he was not happy as funding was provided prior to Irish Water and the work was not carried out.

The report was noted.

The meeting then concluded.