

**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 17 January 2022 on Microsoft Teams**

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

Officials Present: Ms A Aspell (District Manager), Mr D O’Flaherty (District Engineer), Ms M Hunt (Senior Executive Officer), Mr S Deegan (Senior Engineer), Mr G Hooban (Executive Engineer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator), Ms S Higgins (Meetings Secretary) and others.

AY01/0122

Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations from the members of pecuniary or beneficial interests under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

AY02/0122

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday, 20 December 2021 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin and seconded by Councillor Behan that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday, 20 December 2021 be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

AY03/0122

Municipal District Road Works

The Cathaoirleach noted that the District Engineer was not available and that they would return to this item later in the meeting.

AY04/0122

Nomination of a Representative from the Athy Municipal District to the CPG

The Cathaoirleach noted to the members that the Athy Municipal District did not have a representative on the Corporate Policy Group. A nomination for the position was requested and the Cathaoirleach was proposed by Councillor Breslin and seconded by Councillor Dooley for the position of representative from the Athy Municipal District on the Corporate Policy Group.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by all members present that the Cathaoirleach fill the position of representative from the Athy Municipal District on the Corporate Policy Group.

AY05/0122

LPT Schedule of Works 2022.

It was proposed by the Cathaoirleach and agreed by all the members that the Athy Municipal District Local Property Tax (LPT) allocation for 2022 should be carried forward and listed as an item on the February agenda.

Resolved on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach and agreed by all the members present that the Athy Municipal District Local Property Tax (LPT) allocation for 2022 be carried forward and listed as an item on the February agenda.

AY06/0122

Athy Distributor Road

It was confirmed that this matter would be addressed quarterly, and an update would be given to the members at the February meeting.

AY07/0122

Update on Taking in Charge Castle Gate, Nurney

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breslin. That the council provide an update on taking in charge Castle Gate, Nurney, since it was advertised in 2015 and 2020, and given that the timber fence bounding the green area has collapsed.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Development Control does not have any record of a request to take in charge (TIC) the estate from either the Developer or a majority of the homeowners. A Section 180 request from a majority of the homeowners in the estate is therefore required, to finalise the TIC process.

There is no record of final Irish Water (IW) approval to TIC the estate following the submission of the required documentation from KCC to IW. Development Control have contacted the IW TIC team again in 2022 and await an update from them regarding same. IW approval is required to finalise the TIC process.

The Insurance Bond for this estate expired on 30/11/2009. Therefore, there is no bond funding available to execute repairs to the fence or the 2013 snag list.

With respect to the timber panel fence, Development Control will investigate the cost for replacement of the timber panels and perhaps the Councillor(s) can then consider committing funding for the repairs via LPT. The replacement timber panels could cost in the region of €3600+VAT (Note: this is only a rough estimated based on 21 No. timber panels @ €100 / panel + €1500 for removal and disposal of the existing panels, plus installation of new panels).

The members raised the following points:

- Were any issues with Irish Water envisaged for Castle Gate, Nurney?
- Requests had been made previously from the local residents and developer for the taking in charge of Castle Gate, Nurney.
- The Section 180 had been passed previously.
- The members were frustrated that the advertisement had been previously publicised, the process started and then it stalled.
- A meeting between the members and the Building and Development Control section would be set up.
- A list had been provided to the members previously on the estates that were to be taken in charge by the council.

Mr Hooban advised that there were two barriers to the taking in charge and these were the Section 180 that had to be carried out by the residents and the fire hydrant.

Mr Hooban said if the members put in a request or sent in a list of the estates that they were looking for information on, an update could be prepared and given to them.

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

AY08/0122

Traffic and Accessibility Survey on the R418 at the Kilmead Junction

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley. That the council carry out a traffic and accessibility survey on the R418 at the Kilmead junction in order to identify if traffic calming measures are required for vehicles to maintain the 60km speed limit and if there is a requirement for a footpath to the bus stop.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council intends to develop a county wide priority list of junctions that require improvement due to safety or other concerns. It is hoped that these priority junctions will be examined in 2022 and a consultant appointed to assist in the development of preliminary designs for each junction. Once this is complete, planning consent will be sought to implement the schemes and they will progress to the delivery phase thereafter. This will be subject to funding and resource constraints.

The members raised the following points:

- There was a lot of traffic going towards the school and it was a potentially dangerous area on dark mornings.
- A survey could be carried out to determine whether traffic calming, or islands should be installed.
- The bus stop in this area had no signage and pedestrian access to the bus stop needed to be looked at. A bus shelter was also needed.

- Public Realm should be consulted with as part of the upgrading of this area.

Mr Deegan advised that the junction programme had started since last month and that this would collect data on accidents and pedestrian/motorist usage of the road that would then be taken into consideration going forward. Mr Deegan also said that he would liaise with Public Realm on the works for this area.

The District Engineer advised that he was not happy with the location of the bus stop and that a bus stop in the village would be safer.

The Cathaoirleach noted that the bus stop was needed on the main road as some buses would not enter the village of Kilmead.

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

AY09/0122

Upgrade Works on L705810 Killeen Lane in Kildangan

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Leigh. That the council plans, schedules and carries out upgrade works to drainage and reinstatement of road surface at L705810 Killeen Lane in Kildangan in 2022.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that this work can be considered in light of the Community Involvement Scheme allocation to Kildare County Council in 2022.

The members made the following points:

- The scheme mentioned may not be suitable for the residents of this road as raising the required funds would be challenging for the residents. The Municipal District Office have been flexible previously with community contributions.

- A patching job on the road could help as the road surface was not in good shape.
- Could the road repairs for the L705810 be costed?

The District Engineer advised that the figures for the CIS 2022 scheme had not been received yet, but he noted that the scheme was flexible. He said that the road repairs would be priced.

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

AY10/0122

Power Source in Emily Square

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Leigh. That the council reinstate the power source in the centre of Emily Square to facilitate upcoming projects.

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

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Projects and Public Realm Department informing the members that there are proposals under the proposed redevelopment works to provide a power supply to the Square, but this work is not proposed to start until the third quarter of this year.

The members made the following points:

- The Irish Maker market had asked about the power source in Emily Square.
- Having this power source would greatly add to Athy Town.
- The old power source has been gone for two years.
- It was important to keep the town open and available to business. The need for a power source should not be left and a temporary power source was needed.
- There was six weeks before the power would be needed for the next event.

The District Engineer advised that the original power source had been provided by the old Athy Town Council. He said the new power source could be included in the Public Realm plans for the town.

Ms Hunt said that she thought the request for the power source was a more immediate need.

The District Engineer advised that he could meet onsite but that this should still be considered for the overall plan for the town. He noted that promoters had previously used a power source from the Heritage Centre in Athy.

Ms Hunt advised that the power source would be included in the works to be carried out in Athy in 2022.

The District Manager said that Ms Hunt had advised about the works for Emily Square and that a follow up offline could be arranged with the organisers of the February event.

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

AY11/0122

Review of Road Signage

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Behan. That the council review its signage on bends on minor roads and secondary road junctions in this municipal district with a view to improving safety.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Athy Municipal District have been improving signage in consolidation with the Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance works.

This ensures when road surfaces are improved all signage in the area will be upgraded.

The members made the following points:

- There were quite a few areas that do not have any road signage.
- There was one bad bend in particular on the R4015 that had no signage indicating the sharp bend and a number of incidents and near misses had taken place here.
- All the councillors have areas in mind for more signage, it's generally addressed on a case-by-case basis. Perhaps the District Engineer could price the areas for signage as part of LPT.

The District Engineer advised that signage was looked at as part of the Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance works. It was carried out in a structured manner, for every 20k of roads dealt with under the scheme, the installation or replacement of signs would be addressed.

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

AY12/0122

Repair of Footpath and Courtyard Areas in Kilkea

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Behan. That the council repair the broken footpath and courtyard areas in Kilkea, as these areas are currently unusable for many of the elderly residents.

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 this work can be examined as part of the LPT roads programme for 2022.

The members made the following points:

- The roads, kerbs and footpaths in this area needed upgrading.
- Residents who use mobility aids and elderly people cannot safely use the roads, kerbs and footpaths.

- Could a costing for this work be carried out? Funding from LPT could be considered.
- A meeting would to be held with the Sustainable Transport section later in the day and these issues could be raised again. A suggestion to drop kerbs could be considered.
- The work could be outsourced to a contractor as the area mentioned is much smaller than others requiring attention.
- A patch job would be appreciated in the short term to improve the current situation.

The District Engineer made the following points:

- Kilkea has had the same design for the past 50 years, an upgraded design was needed. Mobility issues were not considered during the previous design.
- A short-term piece meal or patch job would not improve the situation enough for the residents who are elderly or living with mobility issues.
- Any funding for works that needed to be carried could be sourced from LPT.

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

AY13/0122

Pedestrian Safety on the Old N9 (L8101-1)

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Keatley. That Kildare County Council improve pedestrian safety on the Old N9 (L8101-1) Ballytore to Crookstown road to connect existing footpaths on the Ballytore and Crookstown sides.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office has no plans or funding available to progress this project. The members request can be referred to the Sustainable Transport Team for discussion with the NTA.

The Cathaoirleach said that he would raise this issue of improving pedestrian safety at the meeting with the Sustainable Transport section. He noted that the roads in this area were wide enough to accommodate a footpath or cyclepath.

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

AY14/0122

Update on Road Improvement Works

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Keatley. That Kildare County Council provide an update to members on the number of Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) and Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) road improvement works carried out in the last 2 years.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a total of 3 Community Involvement Schemes were completed in 2020 and no Local Improvement Schemes were completed due to Covid restrictions. The Department of Rural and Community Development allowed the carryover of funding from 2020 to 2021 which facilitated the completion of 2 Local Improvement Schemes in 2021 from 2020 funding. 6 Community Involvement Schemes were completed in 2021 and a further 3 Local Improvement Scheme were completed from 2021 funding. Details of locations were attached.

The details that were attached are as follows:

Community Involvement Schemes 2020

1. Ballybough Lane
2. Belan, Moone
3. Kilcrow

Local Improvement Schemes 2020

No Schemes carried out due to Covid restrictions,

Community Involvement Schemes 2021

1. Crookstown Lane
2. Ball Alley Lane
3. Kileen East (in conjunction with LIS Scheme)
4. Richardstown Lr
5. Rosebran Lane
6. Carrigeen Lane

Local Improvement Schemes 2021

1. Hughestown
2. Kildangan, Kileen East
3. Gouleyduff 4 & 5 (carried over from 2020 which were not completed due to Covid restrictions)
4. Pullagh, Richardstown
5. Deer Park, Calverstown

The Cathaoirleach acknowledged the works completed by the Municipal District Office and thanked them. He noted that it was important for the public not to be concerned by the costs of these schemes or having to contribute.

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

AY15/0122

Taking of the Chair

The Cathaoirleach asked to be excused. Leas-Cathaoirleach, Councillor Dooley took the chair.

AY16/0122

Rubbish Bins in the Athy Municipal District

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.
Can the council confirm how many bins have been upgraded and replaced since the report on bins was completed in 2021 and how many more replacements are planned?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Athy Municipal District office have ordered 12 new bins for Athy and it is expected they will be available in the coming months. A draft Protocol document for Litter Bin provision was presented to the Environment SPC at their December meeting.

The report was noted.

AY17/0122

Out of Hours GP Services in Athy

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley. That this council write to the HSE and KDoc to invite them to meet with members to discuss the lack of out of hours GP services in Athy and how the primary care centre might be used to resolve this issue.

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

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that subject to the members approval, an invitation can issue to the HSE and KDoc as requested.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by all the members present that the letter be issued to the HSE and KDoc to invite them to meet with members on the issues mentioned.

AY18/0122

Temporary Suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws

The members considered the temporary suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws including Enforcement in various locations across the municipal district area to facilitate the continued re-opening of businesses subject to S254 licence approval.

The members raised the following points:

- There were not many car parking spaces impacted by this throughout the municipal district.

- Were they being used for outdoor dining?
- It was a great service being implemented countywide.
- There were some businesses in villages that would still wish to avail of the opportunity i.e. Castledermot.
- A social media campaign could be launched to raise awareness.

Ms Hunt advised that it was an item to appear for all the municipal district committees. Within the Athy area, Emily Square had been the main location for the use of the service for outdoor dining. Businesses could apply for the Section 254 licences for consideration. A briefing was to be organised for the Castledermot Village Renewal Plan and this would be relayed to the Meetings Administrator.

Resolved with the agreement of the members present that the temporary suspension of Pay Parking Byelaws including Enforcement in various locations across the municipal district area to facilitate the continued re-opening of businesses subject to S254 licence approval be approved.

AY19/0122

Municipal District Road Works

The District Engineer confirmed that Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance works had been carried in the past month. He said that since the Christmas patching works, road grading and hedge cutting had been completed. He explained that the window for hedge cutting was ending as this stopped at the end of February. He noted that a provisional Roads Works Programme for 2022, 2023 and 2024 had been compiled. He also advised that the preparations were underway for the summer programme and that any road suggestions from the members were welcome.

AY20/0122

Tender Works at St Michaels New Cemetery

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley. Can the council give an update on the timelines of the tender for works to be carried out in St Michaels New Cemetery?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that a pre-start meeting with the Contractor is scheduled for the week beginning the 10 January, with a view to works commencing within the following fortnight (subject to covid-related implications, eg staff absences / isolating etc).

The report was noted.

AY21/0122

Time Frame For Works at St Michael's Cemetery, Athy

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin.
Can the council confirm what is the up to date time frame for works to commence to St Michael's Cemetery, Athy?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that a pre-start meeting with the Contractor is scheduled for the week beginning the 10 January, with a view to works commencing within the following fortnight (subject to covid-related implications, eg staff absences / isolating etc).

The report was noted.

AY22/0122

Columbarium Wall in St. Michael's Cemetery, Athy

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.
Can the council provide members with an update on the planned Columbarium Wall in St. Michael's Cemetery, Athy?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the council hopes to progress the installation of a number of Columbarium Walls throughout the county in 2022, and St Michaels, Athy will be included.

Preliminary assessment has already begun and the council hope to be advancing to works installation in Quarter 3, subject to funding availability.

The report was noted.

AY23/0122

Taking of the Chair

The Cathaoirleach returned to the meeting and thanked Councillor Dooley for chairing the meeting in his absence.

AY24/0122

Derelict Site Notices Issued in 2021

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.
Can the council confirm how many derelict site notices were issued in the Athy Municipal District in 2021?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that a total of 7 Section 8(2) notices were issued and four properties were added to the register in 2021 in the Athy Municipal District area.

The report was noted.

AY25/0122

Update on Works on Wall at Abbeyfield, Ballitore

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin.
Can the council provide an update in relation to works being carried out to the wall at Abbeyfield, Ballitore by the owner?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that following inspection in 2021, a Section 3 notice under Dangerous Structures legislation was served. A recent inspection has found that the condition of the wall has not changed since the original inspection. Follow up action is now planned.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.