



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting  
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 18 July 2022  
in the Council Chamber**

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

**Officials Present:** Ms C O'Grady (District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (Area Engineer), Mr D Conlan (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms S Walsh (Executive Engineer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator) and Ms M Richardson (Meetings Secretary).

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**AY01/0722**

**Declaration of Pecuniary Interests**

Declaration of pecuniary or beneficial interests under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

There were no declarations of interest.

**AY02/0722**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

To adopt the minutes of the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 20 June 2022 and to note the progress report.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members that the minutes be adopted and the progress report be noted.



**AY03/0722**

**Municipal District Works**

To receive an update on the municipal district road works.

- **National Transport Authority (NTA) – Active Travel Measure Updates**
  - No update since last Athy MD meeting. Project Team dealing with this.
  
- **Department of Transport – Climate Adaption Projects**
  - No projects completed in Athy MD
  
- **Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works – RI Program**
  - All surveying and preparatory works on all RI and RM for 2022 completed.
  - All RI projects completed.
  - Contractor has completed the resurfacing works on the following roads;
    - R417 Maganey to County Boundary (Completed and lined with cats-eyes installed)
    - L7071 – Blackditch (Final dressing required)
    - L7063 – Ricardstown (Completed)
    - L7065 – Eskerhill (Completed)
    - L8037 – Timolin (Completed)
    - L8089 – Bo Choill Road (Completed)
    - L8012 – Kilrush (Completed)
    - L8017 – Oldgrange (Completed)
  - Margins along these newly surfaced roads are reinstated to new levels.
  - Installed passing bays along L8012 – Kilrush
  - Carried out junction realignments at L8089 – Bo Choill Rd
  - Drainage requirements also completed to new road levels.
  
- **Local Improvement Schemes**
  - Surveyed and adjudicating returned tenders (Completed 3 LIS jobs)



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- **Community Involvement Schemes**

- Surveyed and adjudicated returned tenders.
- (Completed 3 CIS jobs)

- **Signage Works**

- Continuing our update of signage in the Athy MD
- Upgrading signage on completed resurfaced roads.

- **Road Markings**

- Upgrading road junction markings at the present time.
- Renew all road marking including cats eyes along the newly surfaced section of the R417. – 3.1km

- **Drainage Works**

- A number of villages have had drainage systems cleaned
- Jetting drainage lines on various roads
- Cleaning gullies on a number of roads
- Carrying out water cuts along roads

- **Road Patching**

- Carrying out patching along various sections.

- **Street Sweeping**

- Street sweeping to areas
- Bin collection

- **Community Works**

- Carried out preparatory work to facilitate both Tri-Athy and Gordon Bennett Events. This involved road closures etc.



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- **General Maintenance**

- Install base for seat at Library. Seat ready for installation.
- General cleaning of depot.
- New depot nearing completion.

The members thanked Mr O'Flaherty and all the Athy Municipal District Team for all the works.

Councillor Leigh queried why a road from Kilberry to Cloney appeared to have had some preparation works done but did not appear on the works programme.

Mr O'Flaherty advised that contingency roads are prepared in advance of works in areas of close proximity in case of issues arising.

Mr O'Flaherty also stated that an invitation would issue to members to view the new eco friendly depot at Gallowshill when complete prior to its opening.

The report was noted.

### **AY04/0722**

#### **LPT Expenditure 2022**

To receive an update on 2022 LPT expenditure year to date.

The Cathaoirleach advised that an extensive report had been provided to members in advance of the meeting. There was still a small unspent amount of €6038 which could be reallocated at a later date. He suggested the possibility of re-establishing the local heroes award.

The report was noted.

### **AY05/0722**

#### **Taking in Charge Kildoon, Nurney**

To consider the taking in charge of Kildoon, Nurney, Co Kildare.

The members raised the following points:

- It was great to see the progress being made but there were still a number of estates in the Municipal District which were long overdue being taken in charge.



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- The members thanked the staff for progress made in recent times and hoped that the extra staff now in the section would speed up the process for other estates.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Breslin and agreed by all members that Kildoon, Nurney be taken in charge.

### **AY06/0722**

#### **NTA Signage**

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

That this council write to the NTA regarding their signage for the directional turnoff for Athy on both the M9 and M7, as it is completely inadequate with many motorists missing the necessary turn.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that with the members agreement, the Roads Department will write to the TII in relation to the signage referenced in the member's motion.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by the members that a letter issue to TII regarding the directional signage on both the M7 and M9.

### **AY07/0722**

#### **Footpath Castledermot to Coltstown Cemetery**

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

That the council start a process to put in place actions and funding that will lead to a design and the procurement of necessary lands to develop a footpath from Castledermot to Coltstown Cemetery.

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



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A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that a design will need to be carried out to ascertain land take etc. When the design is completed, which will also include public lighting, the job can then be costed.

The member raised the following points:

- Many people used the road walking to and from the cemetery.
- Residents also supported the need for a footpath to allow children to travel to and from school safely.
- Projects were being delayed due to the lack of a design team.
- Updated National design criteria for rural areas which had been requested by members at a recent meeting had not been provided.

Mr D Hodgins informed the members that the construction team did all the salting and surface dressing so there was no manpower available for other jobs. There was a budget for works but contractors needed designs.

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

### **AY08/0722**

#### **St Ita's National School Kilmead**

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

That the council put preventative measures in place outside St Ita's National School in Kilmead to stop cars parking on the footpaths outside the school and to repaint the cycle and walking lanes adjacent.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that this area is outside the remit of the parking bye laws in Kilmead. These works will need to be looked at in the context of the Kilmead Village Plan so that this area can be upgraded.

The members raised the following points:



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- Children are being forced to squeeze between the wall and cars parked on the footpath.
- What stage is the Kilmead Village Plan now at.
- Budget had already been allocated from LPT. A design was needed in order to progress.
- A public realm response was required on this.
- Levittstown school had implemented a short time plan which was alleviating the situation there and could this be replicated in Kilmead.

Mr D O'Flaherty advised that this was a specialist job and needed to be put out to contract so therefore a design would be required.

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

### **AY09/0722**

#### **Disability Parking Spaces**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Leigh  
That the council provide at least two extended disability parking spaces in Athy for Wheelchair Vans.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that the provision of these additional disability parking spaces can be looked at during the review of the parking bye laws for Athy. Suitable locations for such spaces can be looked at as part of the overall review.

The members raised the following points:

- Why was a full pay parking review required for just to extend two spaces.
- No recommendations from the Walkability Report had been implemented

Mr D O'Flaherty stated that pay parking byelaws were very specific. Age friendly spaces had been recently installed. He advised that he would investigate the possibility of



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fasttracking some works and would speak to the access officer, Mr M Hurley and Mr J Doyle from pay parking to see if this was possible.

Councillor Leigh stated that he would be grateful for an opportunity to meet with the access officer and District Engineer onsite to progress the matter.

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

### AY10/0722

#### **Parking and Facilities at the Barrow Maganey**

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

That the council, in conjunction with Waterways Ireland and local riverside property owners, increase parking and family/tourist facilities by the Barrow in Maganey.

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

A report was received from Into Kildare on behalf of Ms J McNabb, A/Director of Service, Economic Development, Community and Cultural Development informing the members that Into Kildare as the tourism body for County Kildare always welcome new amenities to encourage an increase in visitor footfall to the county. The proposal outlined in the motion will provide ease of access for visitors coming by car, motor home or those cycling to explore this part of the county.

We have contacted Waterways Ireland, who we understand are in conversation with Cllr Behan on this matter. Waterways Ireland have responded that they are generally in favour of increasing the service provision at Maganey Bridge. Discussions are at an early stage however any development would be subject to receipt of relevant planning consents and the necessary funding.

The members raised the following points:

- The area in question was a high activity amenity area which was understated and underused as facilities were lacking.





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- The members advised that possibly a letter should issue to Waterways Ireland showing their support for increasing the service provision at Maganey Bridge but the Meetings Administrator would speak with Ms A Mangan in this regard.

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

### **AY11/0722**

#### **Upgrading of Signage**

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

That the council begin the process of upgrading the signage on roads in the municipal district area where resurfacing works have been carried out.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Athy Municipal District Office have been upgrading signage and junctions in the area where we have been carrying out resurfacing works, for example Blackcastle where two junctions were improved in addition to all the new signage.

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

### **AY12/0722**

#### **Pedestrian Crossing Train Station Athy**

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

Can the council confirm if it has plans for a pedestrian crossing from the council car park to the train station entrance in Athy?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that further to a recent motion on a similar matter, it can be confirmed that a crossing location will be installed as part of the ADR work, at the end of the new footpath



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closest to the Train Station crossing to the People's Park. This will also facilitate people coming from the Council Car Park to the Station.

The report was noted.

### **AY13/0722**

#### **Fencing New line Grove Kilmead and Coneyboro Athy**

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

Can the council confirm when work on the fencing in New Line Grove, Kilmead and Coneyboro, Athy, agreed as part of LPT funding allocations, will be completed?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that works are expected to commence on these in the Autumn.

The report was noted.

### **AY14/0722**

#### **Pontoon Athy**

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

Can the council update members on when the meeting with Waterways Ireland regarding a new pontoon in Athy will take place?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that a meeting will be held with Waterways Ireland after the summer leave period.

In the interim, it should be noted that Waterways Ireland current focus is on the following priorities for the Barrow Navigation. In order of priority these are

1. Complete the construction of the Barrow Blueway
2. Submit the 5 year maintenance plan planning applications in June 2022
3. Look at ways to enhance the Blueway experience.

The provision of a new pontoon in Athy falls under priority no 3 listed above.

The report was noted.



**AY15/0722**

**Shed Kilmead Graveyard**

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

That the council remove the dilapidated shed in Kilmead graveyard.

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

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that arrangements are being made to have the shed in Kilmead graveyard demolished and removed.

The members raised the following points:

- Antisocial behaviour was out of control in this area and was causing great upset to people who had loved ones buried in the graveyard.
- The shed should have been removed a long time ago and it should not take multiple requests and a motion from a Councillor to bring about some action.
- For all these reasons the shed needed to be removed as soon as possible.

The Meetings Administrator advised that he would relay the comments to the Environment Section.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Breslin and seconded by Councillor Dooley that the report be noted.

**AY16/0722**

**Waste Water Treatment Facilities**

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

That the council confirm if they have plans to work closely with Irish Water to ensure their waste water treatment facilities in this municipal district are up to standard to support the home building objectives in the County Development Plan.

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



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A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that as had been advised previously in reply to a question; upgrading wastewater treatment plants are a matter for IW Capital Strategy/planning/ Delivery.

The elected member should contact Irish Water via the dedicated Local Representative Service Desk in compliance with Irish Water instructions and protocol. The contact details are as follows;

Telephone: 0818 178 178

Email: [localrepsupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepsupport@water.ie)

Councillor Behan advised the members of a national scheme for rural areas which would 85% of funding and was open for applications until 15 September but would need the support of Kildare County Council.

The members raised the foillowing points:

- There were currently deficits in the waste water infrastructure which needed to be addressed as it was pointless zoning land under the county Development Plan if the capacity could not be met.
- Quarterly updates were needed for rural areas as actions and answers were required which were not being addressed by the clinics.

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

### **AY17/0722**

#### **St Michael's Cemetery**

The members considered the following question int eh name of Councillor Dooley.

Can the council confirm when works in the old part of the new St Michaels Cemetery, Athy will finish?

A report was received from the Planning Department informing the members that funding was secured for the conservation of St Michael's Graveyard Athy under the Community Monuments Fund 2022. Works in Athy will commence in July 2022 and should be completed by the end of October 2022. Tenders for contractors are being assessed and contractors are due to be on site in late July.

The report was noted.



**AY18/0722**

**St Mary's Cemetery**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.  
Can the council update members on the progress of bringing St Mary's Cemetery into council ownership?

A report was received from the Executive Librarian informing the members that Kildare County Council through the Decade of Commemorations Committee sought clarification from the HSE as it was suggested they were in the ownership of it. The council were informed that the matter was with the HSE's legal department for title confirmation. The site is not registered. The HSE have confirmed once they are in a position to provide an update, they would revert to the council. They have not reverted to the council to date.  
The report was noted.

**AY19/0722**

**Memorial St Mary's Cemetery**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin.  
Can the council confirm the up to date position in relation to the installation of a memorial at St Mary's Cemetery, Athy?

A report was received from the Executive Librarian informing the members that it is probably safe to assume that no memorial could be installed until ownership of the cemetery is established. Funds have been laid aside via LPT and allocated to the Decade of Commemorations Committee as an interim measure.  
Councillor Breslin requested that the Meetings Administrator revert to the Director of Services to expedite the issue of ownership  
The report was noted.



**AY20/0722**

**Fairgreen Castledermot**

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

Can the council confirm if it has considered using the Fair green beside the playground in Castledermot as a car park in the summer season?

A report was received from the Parks Department informing the members that there are no plans to use the open space around the playground. The ground on the Fairgreen can be very wet and therefore is not suitable for parking on. A proposal was agreed last year to provide additional parking in the Community Centre. Directional signage to and from the playground has been ordered to facilitate users, and will be erected in the next 3-4 weeks. Councillor Behan advised that she was only requesting use of the Fairgreen in the summer.

The report was noted

The meeting concluded