

**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting  
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 19 September 2022  
in the Council Chamber**

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

**Officials Present:** Ms A Aspell (District Manager), Mr D O’Flaherty (Area Engineer), Mr S Deegan (Senior Engineer), Mr G Conlon (Senior Executive Officer), Ms A Keaveney (A/Senior Executive Engineer) Ms S J Walsh (Executive Engineer), Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator) and Mr S Higgins (Meetings Secretary).

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**AY01/0922**

**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.

**AY02/0922**

**Minutes and Progress Report**

To adopt the minutes of the annual Athy Municipal District meeting and the monthly Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 18 July 2022 and to note the progress report.

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

**AY03/0922**

**Appointment from the Athy Municipal District to the CPG**

The Cathaoirleach noted that the Athy Municipal District did not have an elected member as a chair of any of the Strategic Policy Committees and so they had to approve the appointment of a representative from the Athy Municipal District to the CPG as the representative from the municipal district. He also noted that normally the Cathaoirleach of the Athy Municipal District would be the representative but due to business demands he could not carry out this role.

The Cathaoirleach nominated Councillor Breslin to be the the representative from the Athy Municipal District to the CPG, all members present agreed.

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Leigh, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by all members that Councillor Breslin be approved as the representative from the Athy Municipal District to the CPG.

**AY04/0922**

The Cathaoirleach asked if it would be possible to take items 9 and 10 on the agenda as the next items of business as he would have to leave the meeting early. All of the members present agreed.

**Item 9:**

**Road Markings and Signage in the area of Greenhills Athy**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley. That the council examine, with a view to renew, road markings and signage in the area of Greenhills Athy, up to and including the stop signage road markings for vehicles as they exit of K-Leisure.

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 road marking and signage is an on-going process within the municipal district and as part of the routine road maintenance it is intended to carry out these type of works in the near future.

The members raised the following points:

- Could the work at this location be completed in the not so distant future.

- There had been an increase in traffic in recent years and some motorists had dangerously gone through the stop sign.
- Was there any temporary or short term measures that could be put in place? This was an area when children would be out on their bicycles.
- Could the shrubbery be looked at by the Parks Department to improve the sightlines?

The District Engineer advised that the law states that no stop mark is needed but that the stop sign was the requirement. He stated that extra lining would be added in the next month or so and that an extra sign was also to be installed.

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

### **AY05/0922**

The Cathaoirleach noted that items 10 and 11 on the agenda were both relating to the same topic and suggested that the two be taken together. All of the members present agreed.

#### **Item 10:**

##### **Road Markings and Safety Signage in Grangenolvin, Athy**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley. That the council examine, with a view to renew, road markings and safety signage in Grangenolvin, Athy at the crossroads known locally as Bolger's cross.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that this junction is signposted in accordance with the traffic sign manual. The signage was recently upgraded as part of the low cost safety scheme. The Municipal District Office will liaise with the Road Design Team to see if the junction can be improved by other means.

Councillor Dooley raised the following points:

- There had been several accidents at this crossroads. There was no realisation of the stop sign at the location.
- Locals have said that emergency response vehicles didn't realise there was a stop sign there either.
- An interim measure would be greatly appreciated.

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

### Item 11:

#### **Safety Audit at Bolger's Cross, Grangenolvin**

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

That the council carry out a safety audit at Bolger's Cross, Grangenolvin, Athy and take the necessary steps to improve safety at the cross roads, if required.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that this junction is signposted in accordance with the traffic sign manual. The signage was recently upgraded as part of the low cost safety scheme. The Municipal District Office will liaise with the Road Design Team to see if the junction can be improved by other means.

The members raised the following points:

- Google Maps navigation aid was not highlighting the stop sign. Could Google Maps be contacted by a member of the Roads Department?
- The road signage and linage had been improved.
- The painting of a red slow sign on the road might be another method to alert motorists who are unfamiliar with the area.
- There had also been three accidents in three weeks at Geraldine's Cross.
- An update of all junctions would be great.

The District Engineer advised that the road lends itself to not taking due care but that the signage and road lines had been redone recently. He noted that Google Maps give shortest route and that the council have no control over that.

Mr S Deegan advised that a full update on junctions would be provided in October or November to the municipal districts.

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

### **AY06/0922**

The Cathaoirleach thanked the members and the staff for facilitating his attendance at the meeting via the hybrid system. He asked Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Behan to take the chair for the remainder of the meeting as he had to leave.

### **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.
  - 2 no. extra RI projects are being prepared for surfacing.
  - Contractor has been appointed to 2 no. RI jobs;
    - R417 Maganey to County Boundary (Completed and lined with cats-eyes installed)
    - L7071 – Blackditch (Completed)
    - L7063 – Ricardstown (Completed)
    - L7065 – Eskerhill (Completed)
    - L8037 – Timolin (Completed)
    - L8089 – Bo Choill Road (Completed)
    - L8012 – Kilrush (Completed)
    - L8017 - Oldgrange (Completed)
    - L7063 – Cherrymills to Cloney (Preparatory works completed)

- L-8012 – Moone Village (Preparatory works in progress)
  - Margins and hedgerows along 2 remaining jobs need certain preparatory works.
  - Kilrush – requires some lining
  - Carried out junction realignments at L8089 – Bo Choill Rd (lining required)
  - Drainage requirements also completed on 2 new roads.
- **Local Improvement Schemes**
  - Surveyed and adjudicating returned tenders (Completed 5 LIS jobs)
- **Community Involvement Schemes**
  - Surveyed and adjudicated returned tenders.
  - (Completed 5 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
  - Renew all road markings on R-448 from Castledermot to Moone – 6.8km.
- **Drainage Works**
  - A number of villages (including Narraghmore) 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
  - Narraghmore village
  
- **Community Works**
  - Carried out preparatory work to facilitate both Tri-Athy and Gordon Bennett Events. This involved road closures etc.
  
- **General Maintenance**
  - Seat installation at Athy library completed.
  - General cleaning of depot.
  - Electrical second fix and floor coverings of New depot at Gallowshill nearing Completion. Next week will see carpentry second fix and installation of plumbing fittings.
  
- **Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works – RM Program**
  - R-448 Skenagun to Moone.
  - L-4009 Maganey to Levitstown.
  - R-747 Brookmount to Wicklow bounds.
  - L-8068 Bert to Milltown.
  - L-8031 Milltown to Cardenton.
  - L-6094 Wood road, Narraghmore.

Councillor Leigh asked if the Cloney bridge road would be resurfaced.

The District Engineer explained that bog roads can distort with the cold and hot weather but that this road should be completed.

Councillor Keatley asked if there were any plans for the long term for roads that need resurfacing.

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The District Engineer advised that would be a Restoration Improvement Scheme that would assess the condition of roads and whether or not they had suffered from disintegration or distortion due to the weather.

The report was noted.

### **AY07/0922**

#### **Report on estates in the Athy Municipal District**

The Leas Cathaoirleach noted that the members received a report on finished, unfinished, and estates under construction in the Athy Municipal District.

The report was noted.

### **AY08/0922**

#### **Taking in Charge Cois Caislean, Nurney**

The members considered the taking in charge of Cois Caislean, Nurney, Co Kildare.

A report had previously been circulated to the members for their consideration.

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

### **AY09/0922**

#### **Taking in Charge Lugatanna Park, Ballyshannon**

The members considered the taking in charge of Lugatanna Park, Ballyshannon, Co Kildare.

A report had previously been circulated to the members for their consideration

**Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members that Lugatanna Park, Ballyshannon be taken in charge.

### **AY10/0922**

#### **Foot/cycle bridge over the River Barrow**

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

That the council install a foot/cycle bridge over the River Barrow from the Woodstock Street area to the schools' complex at Rathstewart as agreed in the Athy Local Area Plan 2022 to 2027.

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



A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that there is no central Government funding allocated to the provision of a shared foot and cycle bridge at this location. The council is investigating options to progress the scheme as part of a wider sustainable transport project:

The members raised the following points:

- This footbridge/cycleway was first raised 40 years ago and like the new South Distributor Road has been left on the long finger.
- During the work on the Athy Local Area Plan councillors and planners insisted on a footbridge and cycle bridge north of the road bridge at Crom A Boo.
- The student numbers in all the five schools in the Rathstewart area must be in excess of 1500 and that created a lot of traffic every morning and afternoon. A footbridge/cycle bridge and accompanying lane would eliminate a percentage of the traffic.
- Not only would it alleviate pressure from traffic but it would meet our environmental targets as a council and it would have health benefits for the children that use it.
- It was positive project commercially, for the environment and for the students. It would also tick a lot of boxes for active travel and cycling infrastructure from the point of view of the council.

Mr S Deegan advised that there was a design team for this project but that it was still at early stages.

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

### **AY11/0922**

#### **Design for the Walkway from Greenhills Lane**

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

That the council prepare a design for the walkway from Greenhills Lane onto St. John's Lane, Athy.

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

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A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Roads Design Team will carry out a survey of this location in the coming weeks to ascertain the extent of a footpath and how it is to be assimilated into the existing foot path scheme in this area.

The members raised the following points:

- Is it feasible that this work would be done?
- A number of representations have previously been submitted for this area and work.
- Safety issues along this lane for people with buggies have been an ongoing problem.
- The current gradient of the walkway was too steep.

The District Engineer advised that the historical design of the walkway would not be permitted if it was installed at this time. He stated a proper design was necessary and that the work should assimilate to the current network in the area. He noted that the council may have to acquire land to proceed with this work, he advised that he was unsure of the ownership of the walkway. He said that he would work together with Mr S Deegan and the Roads Design team on this work.

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

### **AY12/0922**

#### **Delivery of Bus Shelters**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Keatley.  
That the council give a timeline for the delivery of bus shelters on the local link routes servicing the towns, villages and rural areas in the municipal district.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that the programme of works for the installation of bus shelters has been advised to the members and does not include the provision of bus shelters at the local link bus stops in the municipal district area. The council continues to liaise with Local Link and

the National Transport Authority regarding the provision of appropriate bus stop infrastructure at these stop locations.

The members raised the following points:

- It was understood that the council rely on the NTA for bus shelters. The members had set aside LPT funding for bus shelters.
- The local link services were greatly appreciated but needed to be regularly used for them to stay as a service for people in the area. Bus shelters would increase the numbers using these services as they would have somewhere covered to wait.
- The bus shelters would be very important with the winter months ahead.

Mr S Deegan advised that he would bring back the concerns to the Senior Engineer of Sustainable Transport Team.

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

### **AY13/0922**

#### **Works in Moone and Timolin**

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

That the council indicate when the road and pedestrian works in Moone and Timolin will be completed.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that the contract for these works has been awarded. It is hoped to have these works completed by mid October.

The members raised the following points:

- These works have been outstanding for a few years.
- There had been a lot of local concern regarding this work, the consultation process wasn't originally able to take place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The kerbs in this area were very high as the road was not overlaid.

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- If details could be provided to the public, via the councillors, it would alleviate any concerns regarding the works.

The District Engineer advised that it was previously learnt that if the public were not given advanced notice of an upcoming redesign that they considered any works carried out to be roads resurfacing.

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

### **AY14/0922**

#### **Car park of Fontstown graveyard**

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

That the council resurface the car park in front of Fontstown graveyard.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that this area does not form part of the public road. It can be examined to see the cost of the works and a source of finance to be identified.

The District Engineer advised that this car park was not under the remit of roads maintenance and that previously the funding had been provided by the Environment Department. He noted that he would check if there was money available again for the resurfacing of the car park.

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

### **AY15/0922**

#### **Footpath Works in Ashville, Athy**

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

Can the council confirm when it will carry out footpath works in Ashville, Athy?

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A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that footpath surveys have been carried out in a number of areas of the Athy Municipal District. It is hoped to commence a program of repairs for the autumn.

The report was noted.

### **AY16/0922**

#### **Traffic Calming Measures in Grayslands and Kingsgrove, Athy**

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

Can the council confirm if it has investigated if traffic calming measures are needed along Grayslands and Kingsgrove, Athy?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office will meet with the Road Design Team and the Athy Distributor Road Project Team to review this area.

The report was noted.

### **AY17/0922**

#### **Back Lanes of Greenhills, Athy**

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

Can the council provide a commencement date for the works to be carried out in the back lanes of Greenhills, Athy?

A report was received from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety Department informing the members that Respond Housing are currently carrying out works on the laneway to facilitate an ESB connection to their housing development. Once, these works are completed, the council will then look at resurfacing the back lanes of Dominic's Park Athy.

The report was noted.

### **AY18/0922**

#### **Update on Public Realm projects**

Mr G Conlon advised the members that a report had been circulated to them updating them on the Public Realm projects in the Athy Municipal District.

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Councillor Breslin said that she thought that LPT had been put into a design for Kilmead that Public Realm was to take over.

Ms A Aspell advised that funding had not been set aside for this.

Councillor Breslin also asked if Dominican Lands would go ahead in Quarter 4 of this year.

Ms A Aspell advised that a Flood Risk Assessment had to be undertaken and that had delayed this work but that it was ongoing. She also noted that there was a limited number of consultants available which may affect the timeline of this.

The Leas Cathaoirleach asked what did the report mean when it stated that discussions were ongoing regarding the Tanyard in Ballitore.

Mr G Conlon advised that the Tanyard in Ballitore's application for funding was from 2019 and that the Department was threatening to withdraw the funding as the money had not been used within 18 months. He said that due to the COVID-19 pandemic that the Public Realm Department were under pressure to carry out other necessary works and this had delayed projects such as the Tanyard in Ballitore.

Ms A Keaveney stated that they were ready to go to tender for the Shackleton museum and that at a recent meeting with the Department, increased funding had been agreed due to inflation. It was hoped that construction would start next year on this project.

The District Manager commended the Public Realm team for the work done in Athy for the Shackleton museum and Emily Square. She noted that an assessment would be carried out at the end of the tender process for Shackleton museum but that it was positive at this point.

### **AY19/0922**

#### **LPT Sports Grants Scheme**

The Leas Cathaoirleach advised the members that there was a report circulated on the LPT Sports Grants Scheme.

The report was noted.

**AY20/0922**

**Erect a Permanent Memorial**

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

That the council erect a permanent memorial in this municipal district in remembrance of Pte Declan Deere, Pte Jonathan Murphy, Pte Matthew John Lawlor and Pte Brendan Fitzpatrick who were tragically killed in the Lebanon on February 14, 2000.

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

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that Kildare County Council's Civic Memorial Policy [copy attached] recognises that "public commemoration and memorials offer opportunities to honour, celebrate, or remember a person, group of persons or events of significance". The policy sets out the process by which the council will consider the commemoration of events or individuals who have shaped the County, either by the naming of infrastructure or by the installation of monuments, memorials and plaques in the public domain. An application can be submitted, having regard to this policy, for consideration by the Civic Memorial Technical Committee. Recommendations of the Civic Memorial Technical Committee will be brought to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration. The Corporate Policy Group will consider the recommendations on all applications and determine whether the applications be brought before the full council or the municipal district for a final decision.

The members raised the following points:

- Four soldiers were killed on 14 February 2000 while on tour of duty in Lebanon. They were Private Declan Deere (21) from Ballyroe in Athy, Private Jonathan Murphy (21) Pairc Brid, Athy, Private Matthew John Lawlor (23) from Walterstown, Nurney and Private Brendan Fitzpatrick (20) from Portlaoise. All four were from Connolly Barracks in the Curragh Camp and all four only joined the army 20 months previously.
- The Chairperson of The St Michael's Branch of Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann, Corporal Kevin Carton raised that a memorial for the four soldiers had never been erected.

- It was hoped that with agreement of the members that the council could rectify this oversight and move forward towards agreeing funding and planning for a memorial for the four soldiers in South Kildare.

The District Manager said that an application could be made to the Civic Memorial Committee. She also noted that this would then be considered and approved by the Corporate Policy Group before being brought forward to Full Council.

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

### **AY21/0922**

#### **Installation of Communication Boards**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.  
Can the council inform the members when the new Communication Boards will be installed in parks and playgrounds in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that a pilot communications board is currently being developed and will be installed in The Peoples Park by the end of the year. Any further roll out of the boards will be subject to available budget and staff resources to provide boards in other playgrounds in the municipal district.

The report was noted.

### **AY22/0922**

#### **Works to the Food and Drinks Hub**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.  
Can the council give an update on the commencement date for works to the Food and Drinks Hub, former Model school, Athy?

A report was received from the Economic, Community and Cultural Development informing the members that an application for funding for the Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub was made to the Department of Rural and Community Development under Category 1 of the Rural Regeneration Development Fund in April of this year. The application is



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currently being evaluated and the council await a decision on our funding request. As part of our Design Team and Planning process for the old Model School, the council carried out a pre-qualification process for potential building contractors. A panel has been formed in preparation for any future works tender. Any works will be subject to securing funding as the estimated construction costs are circa €6,000,000.

The report was noted.

### **AY23/0922**

#### **Ownership of St. Mary's Cemetery**

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

Can the council confirm what is the up to date position in relation to the ownership of St. Mary's Cemetery and outline what discussions have taken place with the HSE on this matter?

A report was received from the District Manager 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 HSEs 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.

The meeting concluded.

Singed:

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Cathaoirleach Cllr. Brian Dooley

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Meeting Administrator Brian McGrath