



Minutes of Athy Municipal District held at 11.00 am on Monday, 14 October 2019 in the Training Room, Level 0, Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare

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

Officials Present: Mr N Morrissey (District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (District Engineer), Ms F Millane (Head of Finance), Ms M Hunt (Senior Executive Officer), Ms A Keaveney (Acting Senior Executive Engineer), Mr B O'Gorman and Ms P Pender (Administrative Officers), Ms B Loughlin, Heritage Officer, Ms A Louw (Senior Staff Officer), Ms P Berry (Marketing Officer), Ms A Cummins (Meetings Administrator) and Ms O Mooney (Meetings Secretary)

AY01/1019

Suspension of Standing Orders

The Cathaoirleach proposed to suspend standing orders at 11.00 am for five minutes.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Dooley and agreed by all the members that standing orders be suspended for five minutes until 11.05 am. The meeting commenced at 11.05 am.

AY02/1019

Minutes

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday 16 September 2019.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Breslin that the



minutes of the monthly meeting of the Athy Municipal District held on Monday 16 September 2019 be taken as read and the progress noted.

AY03/1019

Matters Arising from Minutes

Overgrown Hedgerow on the Ballymany to Ballymount Road (AY08/0919)

The Cathaoirleach asked for an update on this matter. The District Engineer stated that the final notice had issued to the landowner and the matter was in hand.

Review and Revision of Fishing Bye-laws – Athy Municipal District (AY12/0719)

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that a meeting had been arranged with Inland Fisheries, Athy Anglers, Gardai, District Manager and members for 2.30 pm on Wednesday, 30 October 2019 in the Athy Municipal District Offices, Rathstewart, Athy and this was noted by the members.

Taking in Charge of Moone High Cross (AY21/0319 and AY16/0919)

Ms Loughlin, Heritage Officer informed the members that she had found the Moone High Cross file which went back to the 1970s and 1980s. The agreement was brought to the Office of Public Works (OPW) and changes were made in the 1990s. She added she met with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to see what the next step was to establish ownership and then to transfer ownership. Councillor Keatley stated that the OPW had threatened to take away the services located at the cross. He asked that a meeting be organised to sort out the taking in charge of this cross.

AY04/1019

Athy Municipal District Road Works

A report from the District Engineer was circulated to the members.

Councillor Keatley noted the issues at Usk, Kilcullen and he stated that a house on this road had almost flooded last week. The District Engineer said the suction sweeper was sent out Thursday and this matter was an ongoing issue but works would take place in a week or so.



Councillor Dooley asked whether a non-slip surface would be put on the Castledermot Road, Athy. The District Engineer said a non-slip surface would be used.

Councillor Breslin asked for a report showing how much money was spent on works over the last four to five years in Monasterevin. The District Engineer stated that a map could be given to the members showing all the extensive works carried out to date.

The Cathaoirleach asked for an update on the road and village centre works in Narraghmore. The District Engineer stated that the original design was very sketchy. However, a further design on the other side of the road was prepared and it would need to be brought back to the locals to review. He stated he would circulate this design to the members.

AY05/1019

Community and Development Issues

A comprehensive report was circulated to the members prior to the meeting. Ms Berry informed the members that the presentation in the community house was not happening as it clashed with the Athy Municipal District meeting today but that this presentation would be rescheduled and she would inform the members accordingly. She added that the Halloween event was being organised again this year and she was continually promoting no bonfires. She stated she organised and assisted with the skips in the Woodstock Forum, Clonmullion and Andrew Meadows as this was part of the anti-dumping initiative as Halloween approaches, so that households would not collect or store waste for a bonfire.

Councillor Breslin asked whether there was a special grant given as other communities were looking for skips. The Cathaoirleach suggested to her to put in a question or a motion for the next meeting.

The report was noted.



AY06/1019

Master Plan for the Moat of Ardscull

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

Can the council confirm what is the up to date position on the Master Plan for the Moat of Ardscull?

A report was received from the Parks Section informing the members that following a site meeting, it was proposed to progress the clearance of the existing footpaths, extension of the wildflower meadow, replanting of the shrub beds where appropriate, some spring bulbs planting and installation of new interpretative signs. Some of this work would be progressed using the existing allocation of LPT. However, it was likely more funding would be needed to complete the works required.

Councillor Breslin asked that a costing of works be prepared before the end of the year. The report was noted.

AY07/1019

Medieval Church – Old St Michael’s Cemetery, Athy

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

Can the council confirm its intentions and plans for preserving and safeguarding the Medieval Church St Michaels, in the old St Michaels cemetery, a church that is in existence since 1297?

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that they were consulting with the Heritage Officer on this issue and the members would be kept informed.

Councillor Dooley stated this building was dilapidated and relatives of those deceased were having trouble getting to their family graves as it was all fenced off.

Ms Loughlin stated that the Historic Monuments Advisory Committee had already looked at this building. Works on this church was on a programme of works to be carried out this year. The works were being looked after by the Architects Section and she stated she



would ask Mr David Creighton, Senior Architect to give the members a full update at their next meeting. She stated that the works had to be accessed and consent given from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to carry out these repairs. Ms Loughlin added she had consent but she needed funding to conserve the property not to rebuild it. The report was noted.

AY08/1019

Local Property Tax Funded Projects

A report was circulated to the members and the District Manager outlined his proposals, in particular the requirement for €22,000 funding to match €85,000 funding received for the walkway along the Grand Canal Project.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Breslin and the members agreed that the €22,000 be allocated from 2019 LPT funding to the walkway along the Grand Canal Project.

AY09/1019

Review of Speed Limits

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley:
That the council review the speed limits on the town boundary of 60km/hr, for the purpose of extending that limit out another kilometre along the main roads as you drive to or from the town, especially on the Carlow Road R417 and the Castledermot Road R418.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Dooley and seconded by Councillor Keatley. A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this issue would be examined by the Speed Limit Review team. The Countrywide Speed Limit Review was progressing and the Transportation Section anticipate, based on current technical resources, the following dates;

- Notice to/response from Garda Commissioner - Q1 2020
- Public Consultation - Q1/Q2 2020
- Seek TII Approval – Q2/Q3 2020
- Adoption of Bye-Laws at County Council Meeting – Q4 2020



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- It was estimated the bye-laws to come into force in Q1/Q2 2021.

The speed limits on roads in the county will be set in accordance with the "Guidelines for Setting And Managing Speed Limits in Ireland" (March 2015) that was published by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

Please see <http://speedlimits.ie/data/documents/Guidelines-March-2015-Edition.pdf>

Any proposed changes to speed limits on roads in the county can be viewed at the public consultation stage.

Councillor Dooley stated he was glad this issue would be examined as many runners, walkers and others use these roads. He had received many complaints regarding speed of traffic on the Castledermot road and he looked forward to the review of the speed limits being finalised.

Councillor Keatley said community groups and other groups were looking for the speed limits to be reviewed and finalised.

The Cathaoirleach noted there were twenty-one prosecutions on the Carlow Road over the last few months. He added when the last review happened, people came to the members looking to reduce speed at locations, but the speed limits were actually increased instead. He asked whether the locations submitted by the members over the last seven years were marked on a map.

The District Manager stated that progress had been made on this project last year but since then, the team disbanded. However, submissions were still valid and would be considered.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the report be noted and the District Manager confirmed that submissions from last year were still valid and would be considered.



AY10/1019

Athy Distributor Road

Mr Coppinger gave the members an update on this project. He stated that the project was progressing smoothly and that construction on the project would commence next year.. He added that last month it had been stated that the archaeology had finished but this was incorrect, in that three other areas had still to be cleared.

Councillor Behan asked how long it would take to finish the archaeology work. Mr Coppinger was unable to give a timeline at present.

Councillor Dooley asked for an update on the tender for the railway line. Mr Coppinger stated that the prices were back, and he would move forward to taking up the rails and sleepers and deliver them to Irish Rail.

Councillor Dooley asked whether all the compulsory purchase orders had gone through. Mr Coppinger stated that the compulsory purchase orders had been confirmed and notice to treat served. He added there were no finalised agreements yet, but he was working on that but the council could get onto the land in question.

Councillor Breslin asked who the point of contact was for the members. Mr Coppinger stated they could contact himself, Clodagh Lyons or Jonathan Hennessy.

The Cathaoirleach asked for confirmation from the council that the new road would open in the first quarter of 2022 as this was the date given to the people of Athy for the last two years. Mr Coppinger confirmed that the project was on target.

The report was noted.

AY11/1019

Cycle and Walking Friendly Signage

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



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That in a bid to increase driver awareness of walkers and cyclists, that the council would invest in and roll out cycle and walking friendly signage, and solar powered speed signs, throughout the Athy Municipal District area with emphasis around schools.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the Traffic Management Section currently maintains a network of periodic and flashing School Warning Signs at 48 sites throughout the county in addition to 31 sites with Speed Display/Driver Feedback Signs. The Road Safety Officer works with schools in relation to road safety and awareness in the Athy Municipal District and attends numerous events to deliver and emphasise road safety in County Kildare. The National Road Safety Authority invests considerable resources in its ongoing road safety campaign, aimed at drivers and all other road users. The motion may be an issue for consideration by the Transport Strategic Policy Committee when established.

Councillor Behan stated she would like to see more signs/solar power signs around schools as the council needed to change driver behaviour to make them more aware of walkers and cyclists and to keep the system cost effective.

Councillor Keatley said there was a need to encourage the council to look at alternatives as they need to be innovative instead of spending huge amounts of money on footpaths and public lighting. He added schools and GAA clubs cannot be moved so the council need to look to improve road safety and start up a system to keep children safe.

The Cathaoirleach asked that a survey be prepared of all current signage at schools in the Athy Municipal District and this was agreed by all the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the report be noted and that a survey be prepared of all current signage at schools in the Athy Municipal District and then the matter could be reviewed.



AY12/1019

Draft Budgetary Plan 2020

Ms Millane presented the draft budgetary plan 2020 to the members. She stated this plan was in accordance with Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The draft General Municipal Allocation (GMA) takes account of the council's decision, taken at the council meeting of the 23 September 2019, to vary the local property tax rate by plus 7.5%. She added that the members may reallocate funding provided for the municipal district from the headings set out in the draft Budgetary Plan having due regard to the impact their decisions would make to those services. With regard to pay parking, any surpluses were retained for the municipal district. She added that the allocation of €40,000 for community grants had not changed from previous year(s). She stated that if the members did not adopt this plan, then it would go back to the Chief Executive for a decision.

The members asked for a breakdown of the €40,000 for community grants. Ms Kavanagh said it was the same allocation as last year and the breakdown was €20,500 for community grants, €9,680 for Christmas lights and the remaining €10,000 was used as back-up if the members look for other community grants but this excluded festival grants.

The members asked for a full breakdown of those who received grants last year. Ms Kavanagh stated that she would circulate the full breakdown to the members.

Councillor Breslin stated that Athy Community Council originally received two lots of funding, one from Kildare County Council and one from Athy Town Council. However, since the abolition of the town council, one of the allocations had gone and there was a shortfall. Ms Kavanagh stated that the same figure had been given year on year but the matter would be reviewed.

The Cathaoirleach queried why under twinning, Athy was getting €2,400 for one grant and Celbridge/Leixlip was getting €8,000 for two grants. Mr Kavanagh stated that these figures were from previous years and were historic.



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Councillor Keatley asked for clarification as to whether the budget follows the playground. Ms Kavanagh stated that this was the case and that €7,000 per facility would cover maintenance of the playground.

Councillor Dooley asked what sponsored litter bins €10,000 covered. Ms Kavanagh stated that the amount was the same as last year. Mr O’Gorman added that this grant would cover the supply and servicing of litter bins in community graveyards.

Ms Kavanagh stated that the application form for LPT funding was available and she asked for a mailing list be submitted by the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the draft budget be adopted.

AY13/1019

Public Lighting and Signage Works at Booleigh, Athy

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

That the council immediately carry out the public lighting and signage works at Booleigh, Athy as previously agreed and for which funding was also agreed.

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

The District Manager stated that this work was held back due to lack of resources. He added it would cost €70,000 to install public lighting and he thought kerbing was more urgent here.

The Cathaoirleach stated it was the other way around in that public lighting was more urgent. He added there was a design in place for this public lighting to be installed. Councillor Breslin added that the pitch in this area was also being used by children and parents and the area was extremely dark approaching the junction.



The District Manager confirmed that his staff had costed it for €70,000. He stated he would relook at this design and discuss with the District Engineer and the Public Lighting Section.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Breslin that the design be reviewed with the District Engineer and the Public Lighting Section.

AY14/1019

Safety Measures – Dangerous Bend on the Maganey Road out of Castledermot

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

That the council carry out immediate safety measures at the dangerous bend on the Maganey Road out of Castledermot.

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

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this issue would require a design and finance for same. This matter can be considered in 2020 for works funded under the low cost/safety improvement scheme funded by DTTAS.

The Cathaoirleach stated that there were many elderly residents living in the vicinity and priority was requested for safety measures to be provided.

The District Engineer stated that this work was on the list to be carried out and that funding, design and land acquisition were required.

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

AY15/1019

Repair of Cock Pit Lane, Ballitore

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

Can the council give an update on the repair of Cock Pit Lane in Ballitore?



A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that in the short term, the Municipal District Office can carry out repair works and in the long term, the lane requires drainage works and resurfacing. This can be considered as part of 2020 finances.

The report was noted.

AY16/1019

Proposed Works for Kilmead Village

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

Can the council give an update on the proposed works for Kilmead Village as previously discussed?

The District Manager confirmed that there was no valid tender for design for this project. He stated he would discuss this matter with the Public Realm Team to progress these works.

Ms Hunt confirmed to have a valid tender you need three to five applicants, only two were received. She stated that a new design concept would be reviewed.

The report was noted.

AY17/1019

Standardisation of the Tuesday Market in Athy

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

Can the council give an update on any plans it has for the standardisation of the Tuesday market in Athy, in order to promote the market, promote the use of traders stalls and reduce the waste that is left behind?

A report was received from the Corporate Service Section informing the members that initial discussions had taken place with the market traders and discussions would continue.

Councillor Dooley said the market traders leave a huge amount of rubbish behind them and they should be required to take away their own rubbish and leave the area clean.



The District Manager stated that he had met the traders with Ms Gough a while ago to try to start a conversation with regard to regulating the market. He re-iterated they had initial discussions and would meet the traders again in conjunction with the upgrading of Emily Square.

The report was noted.

AY18/1019

Flooding in The Paddocks Housing Estate, Crookstown

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

That the council address the flooding in The Paddocks housing estate in Crookstown.

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

A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that this matter was not for the council as the estate was not taken in charge and this was not a drainage district.

Councillor Behan stated that she tried to contact the developer but to no avail. There was constant flooding at this estate, and she asked that the council take this estate in charge and sort the problems out.

Councillor Keatley noted that the gullies had been jetted two years ago and asked for this work to be carried out again. He added the estate was about 14 or 15 years old and had issues with sewerage and flooding and he asked that the estate be taken in charge.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan, seconded by Councillor Keatley that the estate be taken in charge and that the gullies be jetted to alleviate flooding.

AY19/1019

Extension to Levitstown Graveyard

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

That the council favourably considers an extension to Levitstown Graveyard.

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



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A report was received from the Environment Section informing the members that this cemetery was not under the management or ownership of the council.

Councillor Breslin noted the report and stated that the cemetery was in the ownership of the parish. However, she knew of cases where works had been carried out such cemeteries. She asked the Environment Section to speak to landowners in the area in regard to such an extension.

Councillor Behan asked that the council contact some of the surrounding landowners as an extension was necessary.

Mr O’Gorman stated that he had spoken with the Parish office and he was awaiting their reply.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin, seconded by Councillor Behan that report be noted and that the landowners in the area be approached in regard to an extension.

AY20/1019

Hot-desking – Benefits of such a facility in Athy

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

That this council invite in one of the Hotdesking/Co-working Companies that operate in Ireland, to give a presentation on the benefits for such a facility in the town of Athy and whether it would be potentially viable.

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

A report was received from the Head of Enterprise informing the members that the co-working space was part of the development for the old model school with significant area given to same and this mode of working would be available in quarter 4 of 2020. Provision of co-working space was a key feature of Kildare County Council’s Economic Development Plan across the county.

Councillor Dooley said this facility would allow people to work in an office environment and use a facility in the town. He added several areas in the town could be used. He requested



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that a company be invited to come in and regenerate some of the buildings in the town. He also stated it was great to see Monster Energy coming into the town and locating in the old Coca Cola plant.

The Cathaoirleach said it was great to see Monster Energy coming into the town which was announced last week. He agreed that the co-working space would be beneficial and maybe it could be also offered to school leavers.

The District Manager stated the model school would happen but a facility in the town centre would also be beneficial and said he was looking at one or two locations at the moment.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley, seconded by Councillor Behan that the report be noted and that a meeting be arranged with the IDA representative and Iconic Group to discuss the benefits of such a facility in the town of Athy and whether it would be potentially viable.

AY21/1019

House Alarms for Older Persons Scheme

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin:
Can the council confirm how many people have availed of the House Alarms for Older Persons Scheme in this municipal district and is there still funding available in the scheme?

A report was received from the Community Section informing the members that a total of €15,000 was due to be allocated for this scheme 2018-2020. A total of 42 applications had been received since the scheme's inception. 37 had been approved and 5 had been refused. Of the 37 approvals, 13 had been completed and 24 were awaiting responses from the applicants. Although, the value of approvals was €19,000, only €6,046 had been paid out to date. The older incomplete applications would be followed up immediately, as clearly many are unlikely to be drawn down at this stage. On this basis, the council were satisfied to continue accepting applications for the scheme until the end of this year at least.



Councillor Breslin asked whether the money left over from this year could be brought forward to 2020 as there were 24 cases still awaiting responses from the applicants, could this scheme be re-advertised.

The report was noted.

AY22/1019

Briefing on Upgrading of Emily Square, Athy

Ms Annette Keaveney, Acting Senior Executive Engineer presented an update on the upgrading of Emily Square highlighting the street furniture and materials to be used. She gave the members a copy of the presentation at the meeting.

Councillor Behan said she had a number of proposed amendments highlighted and that she would give them to Ms Keaveney after the meeting.

Ms Keaveney confirmed to the members that there was a condition in the planning permission that only one tree would be allowed. She said there would be a one-way system and the access road on the other side could be used for deliveries, but it was not a through road.

Councillor Breslin stated that there was a group of older men who sit in the town centre every day and the seating would need to be appropriate for them. Ms Keaveney stated that she would have this matter reviewed again.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the team for putting together a great design. However, he understood that there would be two carparking spaces for older persons on the O'Brien side of the square. Ms Keaveney said there was a loading bay only, but this would be checked. He said the upgrading of Emily Square would be great, but it would have to be carried out in conjunction with the Southern Distributor Road.

The District Manager stated that he would be meeting with the project team and that traffic and other issues would be discussed further.



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The members thanked Ms Keaveney and Ms Hunt for their update.

The meeting then concluded.