



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

9th January 2017, Council Chamber

Presiding

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Maria Murphy

Councillors Present:

Councillors, Joe Bonner, Sinéad Burke, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Seán Drew, Eimear Ferguson, Brian Fitzgerald, Pádraig Fitzsimons, Enda Flynn, Wayne Forde, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Johnny Guirke, Wayne Harding, Jim Holloway, Suzanne Jamal, Tom Kelly, Nick Killian, Stephen McKee, Ronan McKenna, Paddy Meade, Gerry O'Connor, Claire O' Driscoll, Maria O' Kane, Damien O' Reilly, Darren O'Rourke, Joe Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole.

Apologies: Cllrs. Trevor Golden, Sharon Keogan, Caroline Lynch, Bryan Reilly, Seán Smith

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Jackie Maguire

Directors of Service: Kevin Stewart, Des Foley, Fiona Lawless, Barry Lynch

Meetings' Administrator: Olive Falsey

Senior Executive Officers: Dara McGowan, Larry Whelan

Planning Staff: Pat Gallagher, Wendy Bagnall, Pádraig Maguire

Senior Engineer: Nicholas Whyatt

The Cathaoirleach opened the meeting and proposed a suspension of Standing Orders to receive a briefing from the Chief Executive and to allow a discussion on the attempted cyber enabled offence, which took place on 28th October, 2016.

The Chief Executive advised that, while a report was circulated to all Councillors, there was a limit on the level of detail that could be provided due to the ongoing criminal investigation. The Chief Executive noted that the attempted crime was identified by Council staff through the internal checks and balances, and that the priority at all times was securing the funds and their full recovery at the earliest opportunity. The assistance and support of the bank, the Gardaí and in particular the Garda Cyber Crime Bureau was acknowledged in this regard. The process since the attempted cyber enabled offence was outlined, including the criminal investigations, the legal proceedings and the



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additional security measures now in place. The Chief Executive thanked the Councillors for their support and forbearance, and noted that since the date of the attempted cyber crime, the Council was advised on the absolute need for strict confidentiality on the basis of the ongoing criminal investigations in both jurisdictions and legal proceedings.

The main issues raised by Councillors on the matter included the costs associated with the recovery of the funds; the impact, if any, on services; the process of informing Councillors on the matter.

In response, the Chief Executive advised that it was not possible to quantify the costs associated with the recovery of the funds at this stage, but confirmed that provisions are in place for all legal proceedings engaged in by the Council.

The Chief Executive also confirmed that the attempted cyber enabled offence would have no impact on service delivery by the Council.

It was noted that statements were prepared and circulated by the Council at the earliest opportunity (17th & 18th December) due to the need for strict confidentiality on the basis of the ongoing criminal investigations and legal proceedings.

Councillors acknowledged the work of the Executive in managing the situation, particularly in detecting the attempted cyber offence and working with the police authorities in both jurisdictions in securing the funds.

In conclusion, the Chief Executive confirmed that she would keep the Councillors updated in relation to the matters outlined.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 5th December 2016.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 5th December 2016 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O'Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Larry Campbell, Navan Municipal District, on the death of his mother Nora Brady (née Campbell).



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- Gerardette Bailey, Arts Officer, on the death of her father-in-law Bernard Harten.
- Gerardine McManus, retired Library Assistant, on the death of her son Colm McManus.
- The family of the late William (Liam) Smyth former Meath County Librarian.
- Eamon Lynch, Finance Department, on the death of his father Seán Lynch.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Councillor Darren O' Rourke and Councillor Maria O' Kane on their recent engagement.
- Ballivor Community Library, Athboy Hub and Ashbourne Main Street Refurbishment Project on being shortlisted for the LAMA Community and Council Awards 2017.
- Ashbourne (3rd place) and Navan on achieving the 'Cleaner than European Norms' status in the recent IBAL Awards.
- Christy McElligott on his participation in 'Operation Transformation' 2017.
- Dunshaughlin and Ratoath Musical Societies on their recent pantomime productions.

4 Disposal of Land in accordance with Statutory Notices circulated pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Finance

- 5.1.1 To receive the Audited Annual Financial Statement 2015 and to receive and note the Local Government Statutory Audit Report for 2015.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 5.1.2 To receive Audit Committee Report on the 2015 AFS and the Local Government Auditor's Report.

Noted by the Councillors.



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5.2 Planning

- 5.2.1 To receive a presentation on the Pre-Draft (Phase 1) of the review of the Meath County Development Plan 2019-2025.

Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner, made the presentation which included information on:

- Forward Planning Work Programme 2017-2018
- Characteristics of a successful Development Plan
- Core Strategy
- Plan Review Stages: Pre Draft Phase, Draft Development Plan, Amendments
- Strategic Issues Paper
- Key challenges for the Plan
- Next Steps: Public information events; Preparation of Draft Plan; Continue proactive stakeholder engagement and support through the national and regional planning process; Proactive stakeholder engagement at local level

Following the presentation, Councillors put forward a number of questions and issues in relation to the review of the Plan. Responses were provided by Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner.

5.3 Corporate Services

- 5.3.1 To consider and adopt the draft 2017 Protocol for the Municipal District Allocation.

Des Foley, Director of Services, advised the meeting of the changes to the protocol for 2017, and it was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O' Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.

5.4 Transportation

- 5.4.1 That Meath County Council hereby resolves to enter into an agreement with Westmeath County Council under Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 in respect of a contract for the management of invasive alien plant species (IAPS) on the road network in County Meath, whereby Westmeath County Council will be enabled to undertake appropriate works in County Meath.



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Des Foley, Director of Services, advised that the agreement would allow the Council to proceed with the National Road Network. It was noted that the works would be undertaken in liaison with the Council's engineers and that Councillors would be updated on an ongoing basis.

It was also noted that consultation is ongoing with the TII in relation to works on the regional and local road network.

Councillors raised a number of issues in regard to the process involved in managing the invasive plant species and responses were provided by Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer.

It was resolved to enter into an agreement with Westmeath County Council on the proposal of **Councillor Johnny Guirke** and seconded by **Councillor Jim Holloway**.

6 Reports

6.1 Chief Executive's Report

Councillors sought clarification on a number of matters in the Chief Executive's report. The main issues raised and discussed included:

Housing: the timeframes in regard to the delivery of new houses.

Transportation: The CIS Scheme and if a policy is in place re the selection of roads, and if roads in poor condition will be prioritised. Funding for Slane Bypass welcomed.

Planning: Funding in relation to development contributions should be spent on local projects.

The Chief Executive and the Management Team provided responses on all matters raised.

6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Corporate Policy Group reviewed the agenda for the full Council meeting and received information on the particulars of some items. The reports from the following SPC meetings were noted: Environmental held on the 16th December; Housing Community and Cultural held on the 21st December.

6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator advised the meeting of the following:



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- The Protocol Committee received and noted reports on conferences submitted by Councillors, and a list of conferences relevant to the business of the Council was approved.
- Minutes of SPC meetings: It was noted that the minutes of SPC meetings are published on the meath.ie website. It was agreed that it would be of benefit to Councillors if the minutes were circulated at Municipal District meetings.

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Letter of congratulations from Senator Robbie Gallagher on winning the Enhancing the Urban Environment Award.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.2 Correspondence from Transport Infrastructure Ireland re. 2017 National Road Grants.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.3 Circular Letter: F.1/17 – 31 January 2017 deadline for the reporting of political donations by elected members.

Noted by the Councillors.

8 Notice of Question

No questions.

9 Notice of Motion

No motions.

10 Schedule of Chief Executive & Approved Orders (For Information Only)

10.1 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Transportation

10.2 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Environment

10.3 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Housing



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10.4 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Community & Enterprise

Noted by the Councillors.

11 Presentations by other Bodies/Statutory Agencies

11.1 To receive presentation from the Irish Falun Dafa Association.

Gerald O' Connor from the Irish Falun Dafa Association made a presentation which included information on:

Forced Organ Harvesting in the People's Republic of China and the scale of the issue; Falun Gong and the persecution issue; resolutions passed by US Government, EU, Irish Government and Local Authorities.

Following the presentation, the Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Mr. O' Connor for coming to the meeting and for his very informative presentation.

12 Any Other Business