



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

### *Ordinary Meeting*

*3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017, Council Chamber*

#### **Presiding**

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Gerry O' Connor

#### **Councillors Present:**

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

#### **Apologies:**

#### **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:** Larry Whelan, Fiona Fallon

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Annual meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

The minutes of the Annual meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Smith**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

No matters arising

### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended to:

- Rita Farrelly, Fire Office, on the death of her brother Micháil (Mick) Farrelly.
- Rieta Van der Werff, Ashbourne MD, on the death of her husband Desmond (Des) Forde.
- Monica Holmes, Motor Tax, and Colm Ennis, Trim Office, on the death of their mother Nora Ennis.
- The family of the late Tom Luddy former employee.
- Larry Whelan, Environment & Jean Whelan, Corporate Services on the death of their brother/brother-in-law Tom Whelan.
- The family of the late Paddy Pryle, Navan.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The Francis Ledwidge Committee on the commemorative state ceremony and all the other activities organised.
- All involved in the organisation of the Kells Hinterland festival.
- St. Colmcille's U/12 team on winning the final of GAA under age Group A competition and the Seneschalstown team on reaching the final.
- Cllr Tommy Reilly on being elected Mayor of Navan.
- Natalya Coyle and Arthur Lannigan O' Keeffe on their recent success in the World Championships in Poland.
- Deputy Shane Cassells on presenting a Bill in the Dáil in relation to the reestablishment of Town Councils.
- The U/14 Ballivor team on reaching the Féile final.

### **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 Corporate Services**

- 5.1.1 To receive the 2016 progress report in respect of Meath County Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2019.

Noted by the Councillors.



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

- 5.1.2 To receive the 2015-2019 Corporate Plan 2017 review.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 5.1.3 To note the 2016 Meath County Council Annual Report.

Noted by the Councillors.

### **5.2 Housing**

- 5.2.1 To approve the raising of a loan up to a maximum of €8.2 million from the Housing Finance Agency to fund projects approved under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor James Holloway** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

### **5.3 Social, Community & Cultural**

- 5.3.1 To receive details of and approve the allocations under the Burial Ground Grants Scheme 2017 as agreed at the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

- 5.3.2 To consider Arts Funding Awards and Bursaries 2017 recommendations

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Noel French** seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

## **6 Reports**

- 6.1 Chief Executive's Report

Councillors sought clarification on a number of other matters in the Chief Executive's report.

The main issues raised and discussed included:



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### **Housing:**

- Funding from Department welcomed but it was noted that it was not enough to address the current housing crisis and speedy delivery of projects required.
- Concern expressed in regard to people with physical and intellectual difficulties who are on the housing list.
- A breakdown of presentations in regard to homelessness should be provided.
- Query re variation in building costs and timeframes re completion of projects.

### **Transportation:**

- It was suggested that the public consultation in regard to sustainable transport initiatives in towns should be carried out well in advance of the commencement of any works.

### **Environment:**

- Information on the remediation of the Tymoole site should be provided in subsequent Chief Executive Reports.

### **Planning:**

- It was noted that provision of open spaces should be considered in the granting of planning permission for developments in towns.

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 report in regard to the Housing Cultural and Community SPC held on the 15<sup>th</sup> June was noted.

Councillors were reminded of the dates for a Special Planning meeting (19<sup>th</sup> July) and a briefing on the Housing Strategy and Retail Strategy for the draft County Development Plan 2019-2025 on the 21<sup>st</sup> July.

It was also noted that the Valuation Office would attend on the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> July to make a presentation on the new rate legislation.

### 6.2.1 To consider and approve the CPG recommendations in regard to the Housing Community and Cultural SPC.

- To approve the allocations under the Burial Ground Grants Scheme 2017



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

See 5.3.1

### 6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator advised the meeting of the recommendations in regard to the following items of correspondence considered by the Protocol Committee:

- Motion from Councillor Gillian Toole referred as follows:

"The elected Members of Meath County Council will submit motions that are SMART- Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic & Timebound.....in the best interest of carrying out the business of the monthly full council agenda & that Members will filter motions of National & international interest to their colleagues in Dáil Éireann & the European Parliament, as appropriate"

It was agreed to recommend that this matter would need further discussion and that it would remain on the Protocol Committee agenda.

- Motion from Councillor Caroline Lynch referred as follows:

"Meath County Councillors call on the executive to examine the feasibility of putting podcast or live streaming of County council meetings in place to facilitate members of the public to have greater access and understanding of the work of the county council. This initiative would be timely in view of the design of a new chamber"

It was agreed to recommend that this matter would need further discussion and that it would remain on the Protocol Committee agenda.

The Protocol Committee approved a list of conferences relevant to the business of the Council.

The above recommendations were approved by the Councillors.

## **7 Correspondence**

- 7.1 Circular Letter PL 3/2017 – Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government Re: Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016 and Planning and Development (Strategic Housing Development) Regulations 2017 and Related Commencement Order.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, provided an overview of the correspondence re the Residential Tenancies Act and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2017. A lengthy debate took place on the matter and Kevin Stewart provided responses to the the queries raised by the Councillors.

### **8 Notice of Question**

#### **8.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde**

*"Can I ask the Executive for an update on how talks are progressing with the HSE NAS in regard to Meath Fire and Rescue and the HSE co-responding to all cardiac arrest calls and delta and echo calls?"*

#### **Response**

A Joint Working Committee, on behalf of the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management, prepared a draft report in April 2017 on the development of a proposal for Fire Services collaboration with the National Ambulance Service in responding to appropriate emergency calls. It includes a review of the practical issues that need to be considered in any agreement relating to any such co-responder arrangements.

The Joint Working Committee set up under nationally agreed consultation arrangements, recommends that the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management seeks further engagement with the HSE and the Department of Health, to progress an appropriate agreement, considering the areas identified in this report.

Meath County Council Fire Service will now await the outcome of this engagement and a formal agreement between the parties. In the meantime, Meath County Council Fire Service will continue to provide assistance on an informal basis when requested by the National Ambulance Service at various incident types including rendering care to patients with life threatening conditions.

Noted by the Councillors.

#### **8.2 Submitted by Councillor Noel French**

*"Does the Council have a policy for speed ramps on all roads or what are its reasons for putting in speed ramps or not? What criteria are used and who issues the guidelines? Does the Council have its own guidelines or does it go by a national standard?"*

#### **Response**



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

Meath County Council does not currently have its own policy for the introduction of traffic calming on public roads but adheres to national guidelines.

There are 3 relevant national guideline documents as follows:

- The current Traffic Management Guidelines for Ireland were issued by the Department of Transport in 2003. This document relates to traffic management in urban areas and is currently under review by the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) with regard to issuing national guidelines on traffic calming at a later date.
- The National Road Authority Guidelines on Traffic Calming for Towns and Villages on National Routes Rev B (*February 2005*) also has advice in relation certain rural roads and appropriate measures to be considered for reducing vehicle speeds on approach roads into villages.
- The DTTAS Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets was issued in April 2013. This document relates to the planning and design of all future urban roads and streets.

At the Transport SPC meeting in April this year the possibility of introducing a specific Meath County Council traffic calming policy was discussed. The Council is currently awaiting the results of the new DTTAS review, and possible update to the 2003 Traffic Management Guidelines for Ireland, before progressing this issue.

Noted by the Councillors.

### **8.3 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke**

*“To ask for the number of presentations to the Settlement Office in the first 6 months of 2017; and how this compares to the same period in 2016, 2015 and 2014 / Ceist a chur an méid cásanna lena a phlé an Oifig Socraithe sna chéad 6 mhí de 2017; agus an comparáid leis an tréimhse céanna i 2016, 2015 agus 2014 a dhéanamh.”*

#### **Response**

Outlined below is the number of presentations to Meath County Council's Homeless Service for the first six months of 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively.

A presentation is deemed to be when a homeless assessment is completed by the Settlement Officer, via a face to face appointment. The data does not include general advices given to members of the public via telephone/e-mail on foot of homeless queries/requests for support.



## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Year (January - June)	No. of Presentations
2014	304
2015	354
2016	308
2017	231

Noted by the Councillors.

### 8.4 Submitted by Councillor Maria O’Kane

*“To ask the number and size of families accommodated in Emergency Accommodation during the first six months of 2017, and for the cost of same, and how this compares to the same period in 2016, 2015 and 2014 / Ceist a chur an méid teaghlach socraithe i lóistín éigeandála i rith an chéad sé mhí de 2017, an costas a bhaineann le seo, agus an comparáid leis an tréimhse céanna i 2016, 2015 agus 2014 a dhéanamh.”*

#### Response

Outlined below is the number of households with children placed in emergency accommodation by Meath County Council’s Homeless Service for the first six months of 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively, with family composition (number of children) also provided.

Year (January - June)	No. of Households with Children placed in Emergency Accommodation						
		1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children	5 Children	> 6 Children
2014	11	9	1	1	0	0	0
2015	21	5	4	7	4	0	1
2016	27	5	11	3	3	3	2
2017	37	11	14	4	2	1	5

Detailed below is the total expenditure on emergency accommodation for the first six months of each year, inclusive of all emergency accommodation placements (data regarding expenditure on family emergency accommodation placements only not readily extractable).



## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Year (January - June)	Total Expenditure on Emergency Accommodation €
2014	45,749
2015	192,344
2016	313,006
2017	324,872

Noted by the Councillors.

### 8.5 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

*"How many live applications are currently on the Meath housing list and how many men, women and children does this equate too?"*

#### **Response**

The gross housing need as at 19th June 2017 stood at 3,577 applicants.

Data regarding the total persons that this gross housing need relates to is currently being collated, and will issue once available.

Noted by the Councillors.

### 8.6 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

*"What is the minimum, average, median and maximum length of time that the application process for the housing adaptation grant takes in Meath? Is the process reviewed/audited and have measures been applied to minimise times for applicants? How do our figures compare to other counties?"*

#### **Response**

Statistics pertaining to the processing of applications under the suite of private adaptation grants are not maintained. However, it is estimated that the average time for a decision to be made upon receipt of a valid application is 6 -8 weeks. The decision process involves an Occupational Therapists assessment and report, technical inspection on site and final adjudication on the application based on the aforementioned assessments, and any additional information required from the applicant.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

Given the funding levels secured by Meath County Council in recent years for the private adaptation grants, all current applications are being processed, with no waiting lists in operation.

Noted by the Councillors.

### **9 Notice of Motion**

#### **9.1 Submitted by Sinn Féin Councillors (deferred from June meeting)**

*"That Meath County Council calls on the Irish Government to develop a comprehensive White Paper on Irish Unity."*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sinead Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

Following a debate on the matter, the motion was unanimously adopted.

#### **9.2 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch (deferred from June meeting)**

*"This Council writes to the Minister for Health calling for the Fair Deal scheme criteria to be changed without delay to facilitate care in people's own homes / Aontaíonn an Chomhairle seo le litir a scríobh chuig an Aire Sláinte ag impí air go n-athródh critéir an Fair Deal scheme gan moill ar mhaithe le cúram daoine ina dtithe féin a h-éascú."*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**

Following a debate on the matter, the motion was unanimously adopted.

#### **9.3 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway**

*"This meeting calls on Meath County Council to address the issue of the management of green open spaces in residential areas within this county."*

Section 11.2.2.2 of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 sets out:

'Public open space shall be provided for in residential development at a minimum rate of 15% of total site area. Where residential developments are close to existing facilities or natural amenities or where in the opinion of Meath County Council that it would be in the interest of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, Meath County Council may require a financial contribution towards the provision of public



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

open space or recreational facilities in the wider area in lieu of public open space within the development.

Any changes or additional proposals with regard to this policy can be dealt with as part of the current review of the Meath County Development Plan 2019-2025.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Jim Holloway** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**. The motion was unanimously adopted based on the supporting information.

### **9.4 Submitted by Councillor Noel French**

*“Given the continual number of road deaths both nationally and county wide Meath County Council is requesting the Road Safety Authority (RSA) to implement a traffic management/speed control programme in our rural villages/towns using camera detection technology.”*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Enda Flynn**.

Following a lengthy debate on the matter, **Councillor Trevor Golden** proposed a rewording of the motion. **Councillor French** agreed to withdraw the motion and resubmit it for the September agenda.

### **9.5 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

*“Meath County Councillors call on the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government to set up a support agency for owners and management companies to help rectify housing units within defective residential developments built during the Celtic Tiger era, in particular those with defective or non-existent firewalls.”*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**. Following a debate on the matter the Cathaoirleach proposed an amendment to the motion by inserting the words **‘to investigate the setting up of’** and deleting the words **‘built during the Celtic Tiger era’**

The amendments were seconded by **Councillor Tobin** and the motion was duly adopted.

### **9.6 Submitted by Councillor Damien O’Reilly**

*“I call on the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to request eFlow to permit Leap Card holders to pay for motorway tolls using Leap cards and offer bundled savings for commuters.”*



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Damien O' Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**, was unanimously adopted.

### **9.7 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher**

*“Meath County Council calls on the Department of the Environment to amend the current threshold of 100,000 tonnes as set by Class 5 of the Waste Management (Facility Permit & Certificate of Registration) Regulations 2007, as amended, to at least 300,000 tonnes / Glaonn Comhairle Chontae na Mí ar an Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na haeráide agus Comhshaoil athrú a dhéanamh ar an tairseach reatha de 100,000 tona a leagadh síos ag Rang 5 de na Rialacháin um Bainistíocht Dramhaíola (Cead Saoráidí agus Ceadúnas Clárúcháin) 2007, leasaithe, suas go 300,000 tona ar a laghad.”*

#### **Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.**

Waste disposal and recovery activities in Ireland are required to hold an authorisation in accordance with the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended. A four tier system of authorisation has been established for the regulation of such activities at a facility. A waste recovery or disposal activity at a facility is either:

an exempted activity (no authorisation required), or

requires a Waste (or IPPC) licence, or

requires a Waste Facility Permit, or

requires a Waste Certificate of Registration / Registration Certificate.

Depending on the authorisation required these activities are controlled either by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or by Local Authorities within their own areas.

Class 5 of the Waste Management (Facility Permit & Certificate of Registration) Regulations 2007 deals with the recovery of excavation or dredge spoil, comprising natural materials of clay, silt, sand, gravel or stone and which comes within the meaning of inert waste, through deposition for the purposes of the improvement or development of land and currently subject to certain conditions applications for authorisations for volumes of such material under 100,000 are dealt with by the Local Authorities.

In 2015 Consultants were appointed by Dublin City Council, on behalf of the regional waste management offices, to analyse the national waste capacity market for the safe treatment of soil wastes and in a report published in December 2016, one of the recommendations was that consideration be given to an increase in the maximum



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

tonnage threshold for waste facility permits. The recommendation suggested that an increase in such thresholds and particularly the 100,000 threshold in the case of soil and stone could be a potential solution to alleviate some of the capacity issues in the regions. It is understood that this recommendation is currently the subject of discussion between the Department, the EPA and the Regional Waste Management Plan Offices.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**, was unanimously adopted.

### **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 Construction

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

### **11 Presentations by other Bodies/Statutory Agencies**

11.1 To receive a presentation by Iarnód Éireann on its changing customer needs.

Barry Kenny, Manager, Corporate Communications Manager, and John Reville, Manager Services Manager, North and East attended the meeting. The presentation included information on the changes in regard to customer services:

- Context for change
- Customer First improvements
- On-board customer services
- Station services

Following the presentation Councillors had an opportunity to comment on the presentation and responses were provided to any queries raised.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the two representatives from Iarnród Éireann and the presentation was noted by the Councillors.

### **12 Any Other Business**