



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

4th December 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, 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: Cllr. Ronan McKenna

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Jackie Maguire

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

Meetings' Administrator: Olive Falsey

Senior Executive Officers: Larry Whelan, David Jones

Planning Staff: Wendy Bagnall SEP

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 6th November 2017.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 6th November 2017 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tom Kelly** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.



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1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Preliminary Budget meeting held on 27th November 2017.

The minutes of the Preliminary Budget meeting held on 27th November 2017 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

1.3 Confirmation of minutes of Statutory Budget meeting held on 27th November 2017.

The minutes of the Statutory Budget meeting held on 27th November 2017 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Emma Smyth, Water Services, on the death of her brother John Maguire
- the family of the late Tom Wiseman, former employee
- the family of the late Jimmy Walsh, former employee
- the family of the late Michael Dempsey, father of former Minister Noel Dempsey and grandfather-in-law of Councillor Ronan McKenna
- Marcella Meegan, Housing Department, on the death of her father-in-law James (Jim) Meegan.

Congratulations were extended to:

The following clubs and individuals on their recent achievements:

- Kilmessan junior camogie team, Dunboyne ladies football team
- Patricia Lynch on winning volunteer of the year award.

All involved in the following successful events:

- Trim Christmas market
- Meath Business and Tourism Awards and Olivia Duff on winning the award of Meath Business Ambassador
- members of the band Mini Mix from Lobinstown who competed in the Junior Eurovision competition
- all involved in the decision to award the Jadotville medal to members of the Defence Forces
- the Slane community on winning the village award in the All Island Pride of Place competition and Trim on being runner-up in the large town category



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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 Housing

- 5.1.1 To adopt the Regional Homeless Action Plan 2018-2020, as recommended by the Housing Community and Cultural Development SPC.

David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, made a presentation which included information on:

- the legislative background
- current national policy and current Housing context
- homelessness in the Mid East Region and contributing factors
- homeless services in Co. Meath and emerging trends
- priority themes, data collection, performance indicators
- consultation undertaken in preparation of the Mid East Region Homelessness Action Plan

Following the presentation Councillors had an opportunity to comment and ask questions, and responses were provided by David Jones.

The Regional Homeless Action Plan 2018-2020 was duly adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

5.2 Finance

- 5.2.1 To receive an update report on the Management Accounts for the nine months ended 30th September 2017.

Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, informed that expenditure was on target and that it was anticipated that a surplus would be achieved at the end of the year.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 5.2.2 To note the Audited Annual Financial Statements 2016 and Local Government Audit report 2016.

Noted by the Councillors.



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5.3 Planning

5.3.1 Having considered the proposed Variation No.4 (Vacant Sites Levy) to the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019, together with the Chief Executive's report on submissions, if thought fit to resolve to make the variation, or to accept the Chief Executive's recommendations with or without further modification, or to refuse to make the variation, in accordance with Section 13 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2017.

Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner, made the presentation and provided information on the process, including the context and the public consultation. The submissions were noted as follows:

Submission 1: Northern and Western Regional Assembly

- No Comments

Chief Executive's Response & Recommendation - No Change required

Submission 2: Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly

- Welcomes variation, considers variation could be strengthened by applying to all land throughout the County identified as residential or regeneration land. Variation should be compliant with the Core Strategy.

Chief Executive's Response

- Any expansion of the targeted approach of the proposed variation can be examined in the context of the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan 2019-2025.

Chief Executive's Recommendation - No Change required

Submission 3: Louth County Council

- Consider that the variation as proposed is clear and concise, provides a geographical basis and contextual framework for the inclusion of the new objective in relation to the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015.
- The positive and active approach to fully utilising this initiative through the inclusion of the New Objective is also recognised.

Chief Executive's Response & Recommendation - No Change required.



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Submission 4: Environmental Protection Agency

- Notes outcome of the SEA Determination process.
- Brownfield land targeted by the proposed variation should be appropriately remediated to avoid any significant adverse environmental impacts.
- ‘State of the Environment Report’ - Ireland’s Environment 2016 – An Assessment (EPA, 2016).
- The submission concludes with a reminder of the requirements pertaining to notification of the Council’s decision regarding the SEA determination.

Chief Executive’s Response & Recommendation - No Change required

Submission 5: Environmental Protection Agency

- The Environmental Health Service supports this variation as a positive development.

Chief Executive’s Response & Recommendation - No Change required

Submission 6: Transport Infrastructure Ireland

- No comments.

Chief Executive’s Response & Recommendation - No Change required

Submission 7: ILTP on behalf of Eamon Walsh, Dunboyne

- Requests that lands identified for town centre use in Dunboyne be excluded from the proposed variation.

Chief Executive’s Response

The variation provides the policy basis for the introduction of the vacant sites levy. The next stage of the process will be the examination of sites.

Recommendation - No Change required

Submission 8 Department of Housing & Planning

- Considers variation provides a strong basis within the statutory development plan for the Council undertaking measures to implement the vacant site levy and other actions to assist in the development of underutilised and vacant sites within Meath.
- Compliance with obligations under planning legislation.

Chief Executive’s Response & Recommendation - No Change required



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Submission 9: Department of Education & Skills

- Welcomes variation and requests that any educational requirements arising from same be considered.

Chief Executive's Response & Recommendation - No Change required

Following the presentation the Councillors resolved to make Variation No.4 (Vacant Sites Levy) on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

5.4 Community

- 5.4.1 To receive details of, and approve, the allocations under the RAPID Programme 2017, as recommended by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting on 24th November 2017.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

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 approved social housing bodies should be reflected in the CE report on housing, and a list should be included every month
- delays re the delivery of housing construction projects were noted
- request for the details of the reasons for the homeless status of individuals
- update requested on the decision re proposal on staffing for Vacant Homes Strategy.

Community:

- allocation in regard to funding for Library Service was welcomed
- Teacher/Artist scheme under the Creative Ireland programme was welcomed

Environment:

- statistics re water inspections were noted and information sought in regard to the uptake of grants for remediation of septic tanks.



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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 CPG noted reports from the following SPC meetings:

- Planning Economic Development and Enterprise held on 14th November
- Housing Community and Cultural Development held on 24th November

6.2.1 To receive a presentation on the draft Public Lighting Policy, and to consider and approve the recommendation of the CPG.

Des Foley, Director of Services, made a presentation on the draft Public Lighting Policy, which included information on the proposed three tier approach, the taking in charge process and the implementation of the policy.

Following the presentation Councillors sought clarification on a number of issues and responses were provided by Des Foley, Director of Services.

The draft Public Lighting Policy was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Drew**.

6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator advised the meeting of the recommendations in regard to the following items:

- a motion from **Councillor Sharon Keogan** requesting that: *'the Council will have a uniform roadside memorial symbol to mark areas where sudden or accidental deaths have occurred within our county'*

The Protocol Committee agreed to consider the matter.

- the proposed official opening of Buvinda House on the 19th December
- approved a list of conferences relevant to the business of the Council

The above recommendations were approved by the Councillors.

7 Correspondence



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- 7.1 Correspondence from the Department of Health in response to Notice of Motion 9.2 adopted at the July 2017 meeting of the Full Council re. request for Fair Deal scheme criteria to be changed.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.2 Circular WP07/17 – - Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment re. National Waste Enforcement Priorities for 2018.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.3 LG 07/2017 – Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government re. Expenses and allowances of Local Authority Members.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.4 Publication of Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy Issues Paper.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.5 Circular LG 08/2017 - Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government re. Update in relation to expenses and allowances for Local Authority Members.

Noted by the Councillors.

8 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“What valuation, monetary wise, is on the old County Council offices on Railway Street, including the Motor Tax office?”

Response

Meath County Council intends to prepare a framework plan for the site, related to its town centre zoning. The framework plan will provide guidance on possible future uses of the site, having regard to its strategic location. It will also provide some indication as to the market value of both the Council offices and adjoining property.

Noted by the Councillors.



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9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

"That Meath County Council writes to the Minister for Education to endorse his plan to roll out a speech and language therapy pilot programme initiative, and to request that schools in Meath are given serious consideration when school selection is occurring."

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Enda Flynn**, was unanimously adopted.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council, to write to the Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport and Irish Rail Management requesting they launch joint marketing campaigns highlighting that Meath commuters can now connect to all LUAS services from Dunboyne and M3 Parkway train stations with LUAS Cross City."

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

9.3 Submitted by the Fine Gael Group

"That Meath County Council writes to the Minister of Health Simon Harris, the Minister of Education Richard Bruton and the Minister for Children & Youth Affairs Katherine Zappone to put into consideration collectively a compulsory training programme of occupational first aid training for all teachers and SNAs that are physically capable to provide CPR, in both primary and secondary schools throughout Ireland. In consideration with recent statistics - 15 people a day die from sudden death syndrome and 125 people die a year from choking. We believe that this responsibility lies with all 3 Ministers as in education, health and putting children first. "

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**. Following a debate on the matter, an amendment to the motion was proposed by **Councillor Enda Flynn** to include the text *"that substitute cover would be available for teachers attending the training"*

Councillor Murphy agreed with the amendment and the motion was unanimously adopted.

9.4 Submitted by Ratoath MD Councillors



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“Ratoath Municipal District Councillors, call on Meath County Council, to request the Minister for Transport, Sport and Tourism and TII, (Transport Infrastructure Ireland) to provide one month’s free tolling at M3 Toll Plaza, Clonee/ Dunboyne to highlight that the incorrect location and sighting of this Toll Plaza is generating the chaotic traffic congestion along the regional county and local roads and towns adjacent to the M3 corridor.”

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O’ Reilly**, was unanimously adopted, following a lengthy debate on the matter.

9.5 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

“In view of the increase of families in emergency accommodation this Council calls on the Minister for Social Protection to make an additional Christmas payment to these families to make Christmas a little more bearable in terms of meals and clothing / Mar gheall ar an méid teaghlach i lóistín éigeandála glaíonn an Chomhairle seo ar an Aire Coimirce Sóisialaí breis-íocaíocht don Nollaig a thabhairt dóibh chun go mbeidh an Nollaig níos éascaí ó thaobh béilí agus éadaí de.”

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Maria O’ Kane**, 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

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

11 Any Other Business

- Councillor Trevor Golden suggested that a large sign would be erected at the entrance to the Council offices at Railway Street, to inform the public of the relocation to Buvinda House.
- Congratulations were extended to Councillors Maria O’ Kane and Darren O’ Rourke on the imminent birth of their baby.



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- The Chief Executive noted that an informal official opening of Buvinda House would take place on Tuesday 19th December in conjunction with a coffee morning in aid of the Navan SVP Christmas appeal.