



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Trim Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

2:00p.m., 16th March, 2018, Trim Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Noel French**, presided.

Councillors Present: Enda Flynn, Joe Fox, Trevor Golden, Caroline Lynch.

Apologies: Councillor Ronan McKenna.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Des Foley

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Assistant Engineer: Jim McElhinney

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Apologies: Maura Daly, Executive Engineer.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 16th February, 2018.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16th February, 2018 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Caroline Lynch sought an update on the former ESB building in Enfield – it was confirmed that this matter had recently been discussed with the OPW and they had agreed to seek a valuation on the building with further updates to be provided when available.

Councillor Noel French requested that the retail strategy for Trim be again reviewed and that a further letter issue to the Department of Education and Skills regarding the old school on



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Patrick Street. He also sought confirmation that the report on pedestrian crossings would be brought to the July meeting – this was confirmed – and referred to the age friendly parking spaces requested.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Gordan Meehan, Trim Library on the death of his grand-niece, Kayla Carey.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Trim Musical Society on their show, 'Sister Act';
- Supervalu Trim on winning National Store of the Year;
- Mary Nally, Third Age, Summerhill on her retirement;
- The staff of Meath County Council for their efforts during the recent adverse weather conditions.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

4.1.1 To receive an update on works completed/ planned within Trim Municipal District.

The report had been circulated in advance and matters raised by Councillors included:

- Requested that the list of footpaths compiled be circulated to Councillors – this was agreed.
- The deterioration of the road from Rossan Road to Ballinabrackey – it was agreed to arrange a site visit.



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- Flooding on the Ballyclare Road, Longwood – Councillors were requested to submit these matters via Sugar allowing progress to be tracked.
- Complaints received regarding traffic using Griffin Park as a short-cut- it was agreed to check the chicane for damage.

4.1.2 To receive an update on parking in Trim.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Transportation Section referred to issues previously raised and provided updates on each. These included confirmation that the traffic warden had visited Enfield and issued warning notices with a further visit planned to issue fines. It was pointed out that this had met with a mixed reaction. It was also pointed out that a parking meter replacement programme would commence this year with repairs to be carried out in the interim. With regard to permits, it was conceded that these had been subject to poor enforcement but that, with each renewal, a map was being provided highlighting the long stay car parks, thereby increasing awareness.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The parking issues at the entrance to St. Joseph's – it was confirmed that the warden and Gardaí had been made aware of the issues. It was requested that St. Joseph's be made aware of actions taken.
- Access to permits – the scheme was outlined.
- Illegal parking at Scoil Mhuire and the need to designate school parking away from the town centre –it was pointed out that the car park at Trim Civic Offices had been designated as free school parking some time ago but that parents tend to park as close as possible to the school. It was agreed to contact schools and remind them of this designated parking.
- The possibility of installing double yellow lines at Glenidan opposite the school in Enfield and parents using the derelict house in Glenidan for parking – it was agreed to check if signage could be erected.

4.2 Planning



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4.2.1 To consider taking in charge of the following and the making of a declaration that the roads within the developments shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2017.

- Coachyard Avenue, Enfield

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Enda Flynn** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.

- Coachyard Manor, Enfield

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Enda Flynn** and seconded by **Councillor Caroline Lynch**.

- Knightsbrook, Trim

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.

4.3 Corporate Services

4.3.1 To discuss Civic Reception.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services circulated a list of those who been congratulated/thanked at meetings over the last year. It was agreed that, at the April meeting, the names of those to be acknowledged at a civic reception would be agreed. It was also agreed that the event would precede the May meeting.

4.3.2 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Trim Municipal District.

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted.

5 Notice of Question



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5.1 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

“Can the Road Safety Officer provide a progress report on works to the school crossing outside Dangan National school in order that it is fit for purpose?”

Response:

Works to the school crossing outside Dangan National School are almost complete. Meath County Council has requested a connection by the ESB to enable the lights to be turned on when works are fully completed.

Councillor Caroline Lynch referred to extra works, agreed with parents at a meeting, to be completed over the Easter holidays. It was also confirmed that the school warden would remain in place until the summer, giving all a chance to get used to the new arrangements.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden

"What is the total number of and annual cost of School Wardens in the Trim Municipal District?"

Response:

There are currently three School Wardens assigned to the Trim Municipal District – located in Enfield, Trim and Summerhill. The position of School Warden is part-time and remunerated at the General Operative hourly rate based on an incremental pay-scale. Currently the approximate annual cost of a School Warden position in the Trim Municipal District is €11,000 per staff member. This includes gross pay, employers PRSI and overheads.

The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch



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“Trim Municipal District calls on Meath County Council to develop a policy in reference to the allocation and retention of School Traffic wardens in the County in order to provide clarity regarding this issue going forward.”

Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

Section 96 of the Road Traffic Act 1961 makes provision for local authorities to make arrangements relating to school wardens. Pursuant to the Local Government Reform Act 2014 the making of such arrangements is a reserve function to be performed by the Municipal District Members subject to the provisions of Section 131A of the Local Government Act. The provision of a school warden must be within the available revenue budget for the Municipal District.

It is recommended that requests to provide a school warden would be assessed on a case by case basis in consultation with the Council’s Road safety Officer, technical staff, school principal and Municipal District Members. Technical solutions including the provision of signalised pedestrian crossings should be considered as possible solutions where appropriate. In this context, consideration should be given to what appropriate arrangements can be put in place locally, to provide cover, should for whatever reason the designated school warden not be available to attend for work on any given day or other extended period and the impact of providing such cover may have on the delivery of other services within the Municipal District.

Meath County Council’s Road safety Plan 2013 -2020 includes measures to support schools in road safety education and awareness. The Plan also includes an objective to encourage individual responsibility for all road users including a measure to encourage schools and parents to develop and promote road safety through school travel transport plans and strategies.

Through the planning process the Council encourages schools to consider road safety as an integral part of the designs for new schools and proposals for extension of existing schools and to prepare mobility management plan to assess the different travel modes to be used by staff and students using the school and that where feasible appropriate measures are included to ensure the safety of all travel modes to and from the school.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Enda Flynn**.



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A short discussion followed on the need to provide school wardens for younger children who are not traffic aware and who are not accompanied, e.g. on school buses. It was agreed to refer this to the Transportation SPC for further consideration.

The motion was adopted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

“Trim Municipal District would like to commend Meath County Council on their efforts to keep roads open during the recent adverse weather conditions. However we recommend that at least one access route out of all villages in the county is also prioritised in order to avoid some constituents being isolated.”

Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

Meath County Council prepares a Winter Service Plan describing the winter service to be provided for the following winter season. Prior to preparing the current plan a sub group of the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee carried out a strategic review of the proposed winter gritting service. The current plan sets out the gritting routes as Priority 1 Routes, covering the national road network and priority 2 routes covering 80% of the regional road network and some strategic local roads. The network stretches to 580km of roadway that is treated every night when ice is predicted to form on untreated road surfaces. This network is treated with the Council’s ten gritting trucks which all have snow plough attachments fitted.

The recent Storm Emma gave rise to prolonged snowfall over several days and high winds, resulting in very significant snow drifts throughout the County.

The Council’s strategy in treating the road network before and during this storm was to carry out significant pre-salting of those Priority 1 and Priority 2 routes before the onset of snowfall and the blizzard conditions. Following the blizzard conditions of Thursday night and Friday morning of the 1 & 2nd March respectively, snow ploughing and gritting commenced on Priority 1 and 2 Routes.

In tandem with this operation each Municipal District deployed their own resources and additional hired equipment to clear snow from the remaining regional road network and



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principle towns and then continued to open access to other towns and villages and then to more rural parts of the network until the entire network was accessible.

Sections of the network and in particular the more heavily trafficked routes received further treatment to bring those roads up to full capacity. In exceptional circumstances, where medical emergencies arose, resources were diverted to provide assistance in these cases.

The significant accumulations of snow did require significant effort with all available resources to clear. The Council endeavoured to restore access to the complete network as quickly as possible.

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

A short discussion followed, with the approach taken during extreme weather further outlined, including the use of contractors. It was requested that this motion be referred to the Transportation SPC for consideration as part of their review of the winter gritting programme.

The motion was adopted.

7 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Dara McGowan raised the following issue:

8.1.1 Referred to the visit arranged to the NEC building in Ballivor, circulated a brochure and provided a summary of the building. A short discussion followed on the potential uses for the building and the need to develop a focused strategy to promote its potential to relevant sectors.

8.2 Councillor Enda Flynn raised the following issues:



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- 8.2.1 Referred to ongoing traffic congestion at Supervalu in Enfield.
- 8.2.2 The need for further works on the Enfield bypass.
- 8.2.3 Faded road markings on the road into Johnstown over the motorway.
- 8.3 Councillor Caroline Lynch raised the following issue:
 - 8.3.1 Requested an update on the licence application made by Trim Tourism Network for the tourist office – it was pointed out that the review had been discussed at a meeting of Boyne Valley Tourism and it was agreed to contact Trim Tourism Network separately.
- 8.4 Councillor Trevor Golden raised the following issues:
 - 8.4.1 Requested an update on the library and theatre – it was confirmed that it was expected that a firm would be appointed in May to undertake feasibility options, designs and costings with a Part VIII due in September.
 - 8.4.2 The possibility of including a raised platform with the pedestrian crossing at Supervalu, similar to those in Duleek.
 - 8.4.3 Requested an update on the percentage completion of the LED upgrade programme and the savings achieved.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach