



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

5th March 2018, Council Chamber

Presiding

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Gerry O' Connor

Councillors Present:

Councillors Joe Bonner, Sinead Burke, Francis Deane, Seán Drew, Eimear Ferguson, Brian Fitzgerald, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Enda Flynn, 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, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole.

Apologies: Cllrs Eugene Cassidy, Wayne Forde, Joe Reilly, Seán Smith,

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, Dara McGowan

The Cathaoirleach opened the meeting and paid tribute to all involved in managing the recent severe weather event in such an efficient and effective manner. The Cathaoirleach's remarks were re-echoed across the Chamber, and it was unanimously agreed that the Council staff and management were well prepared and executed the response in an exceptional way. Councillors also paid tribute to the volunteers in the communities for their assistance and cooperation. The Chief Executive, Jackie Maguire, acknowledged and thanked all staff involved in the operation and acknowledged the huge efforts and commitment of all the various services of the Council.

Councillor Wayne Harding proposed a suspension of standing orders to discuss the matter of a Fianna Fáil motion, submitted for the agenda, and subsequently ruled out of order. The Chief Executive, Jackie Maguire and Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, provided clarification on the matter in question.



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1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 5th February 2018.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 5th February 2018 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Trevor Golden requested an update on the meeting the Chief Executive attended in regard to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Councillor Caroline Lynch requested an update on the motion agreed at the February meeting in regard to arranging a meeting of the Housing Community and Cultural Development SPC to discuss the establishment of a housing task force.

Responses were provided on both matters raised.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Louise Hand, Planning Department, on the death of her mother, Marian Hand
- The family of the late Bernie Faulkner, former employee
- Mary Courtney-Kellett, Motor Tax Department, on the death of her brother, Pat Courtney
- Alison Ryan, Planning Department, on the death of her husband, Aidan Murphy
- Stephen Quinn, IT Department, on the death of his father-in-law, Ned Duignan
- The family of the late Tom Leonard, former IPKSA President

Congratulations were extended to:

- All involved in the upcoming St. Patrick's Day parades
- The new Sinn Féin Party leader, Mary Lou McDonald

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



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No disposals.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Corporate Services

- 5.1.1 To note the NOAC Report on Performance Indicators in Local Authorities 2016.

The report was noted by the Councillors and responses were provided in regard to any issues raised.

- 5.1.2 To approve the Annual Service Delivery Plan, 2018.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor David Gilroy**.

- 5.1.3 To approve the appointment of a replacement Councillor to the Joint Policing Committee (JPC), following the resignation of Cllr. Damien O'Reilly.

Councillor Stephen McKee was appointed to the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll**.

5.2 Community

- 5.2.1 To receive and note the Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2017.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 5.2.2 To receive and note the Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2017.

Noted by the Councillors.

5.3 Finance

- 5.3.1 To receive in accordance with Article 26 (2) of the Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014, a report on Schedule of Uncollected Rates for 2017.



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Received and noted by the Councillors. The Head of Finance, Fiona Lawless, provided a short briefing on the report and noted that the collection figure was 92%, which was a significant improvement in the collection rates. The success of the Business Support Scheme was noted, and responses were duly provided on matters raised by the Councillors.

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:

- Housing welcomed in Ratoath and Ashbourne and high quality of Ashbourne noted.
- Request that the emergency number used for homelessness during the weather event should be continued.
- New mortgage scheme should be included in the Chief Executive's report.
- Affordable rented accommodation for families should be introduced by the Council instead of HAP.
- Update requested on progress re Alverno Court.
- Expansion of information on homelessness section welcomed.
- Request that information re the 11 affordable sites at Donore should be included in the Chief Executive's report.

Transportation:

- Funding for Laytown /Bettystown spine road welcomed.
- Will Councillors have an opportunity to make submissions to public lighting capital programme of works?
- It was requested that, due to the severe weather, the CIS scheme application deadline would be extended to allow all the applications to be submitted.

Community:

- Information requested re plans to reschedule national tree week.
- LCDC should be elevated to an SPC.
- WIFI should be provided in all public libraries.

Environmental:

- Climate Action Regional Office – will it be in a position to monitor emissions?

Planning:

- Information requested on actions/proposals to accelerate delivery of homes under Part V.

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



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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.

6.2.1 To approve, as agreed by the CPG, on the recommendation of the Transportation SPC, the introduction of the Local Improvement Scheme, 2018.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Jim Holloway** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

Councillor Johnny Guirke raised the issue of the criteria of the LIS and proposed that a house would score more than a landholding in relation to the marking scheme. This proposal was seconded by **Councillor Seán Drew**.

6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator advised the meeting of the recommendations arising as follows:

- Reports on conferences submitted by Councillors were noted, and a list of conferences relevant to the business of the Council was approved.
- The travel arrangements for St. Patrick's Day celebrations were noted and approved.

It was noted that a business meeting with Tourism Ireland in New York had been arranged for the delegation.

New York 14-18 March

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Gerry O' Connor, Cllrs. Maria Murphy, Seán Smith, Nick Killian, the Chief Executive and one official/group leader.

London: 17 – 19 March (St. Patrick's Day Parade 18th March)

Cllrs. Jim Holloway, Claire O' Driscoll, Tom Kelly and one official/group leader.

7 Correspondence

7.1 Circular FPS 02/2018 - Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government re. Publication of the National Planning Framework (NPF) - Project Ireland 2040: Building Ireland's Future.



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Noted by the Councillors. A lengthy debate took place on the details of the correspondence with the following matters noted:

- No report received on the submissions to draft National Planning Framework
- Critical projects not included: Rail Line to Navan, LOOR, Regional Hospital
- Issues in regard to the N2 and traffic not addressed
- Other investment projects for the county e.g. funding for greenways, heritage, sporting facilities were noted.

- 7.2 Circular Letter PL 01/2018 – Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government re. Amendments to Exempted Development Provisions – Planning and Development (Amendment) Regulations 2018, Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2018, and Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2018.

Noted by the Councillors. Councillors welcomed the Regulations and Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, provided responses on matters raised by Councillors.

- 7.3 Circular LG 01/2018 – Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government re. Expenses and allowances for local authority members.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.4 Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills in response to Notice of Motion 9.1 adopted at the December 2017 meeting of the Full Council re. pilot scheme in Speech and Language.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.5 Correspondence from the Minister for Health in response to Notice of Motion 9.3 adopted at the December 2017 meeting of the Full Council re. Occupational First Aid training in schools for teachers and SNAs.

Noted by the Councillors. **Councillor Enda Flynn** noted that the members of a school Board of Management work in a voluntary capacity, with an ever increasing workload and level of responsibility, and should not be requested to deal with such matters.

8 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde



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“Are there any plans to recruit additional outdoor staff to continue the maintenance of towns and villages throughout the county?”

Response

Meath County Council’s staffing complement is informed by a workforce planning process. The aim of this process is to ensure that the Council is appropriately staffed so as to deliver required services.

The Council reviews staffing requirements in the outdoor grades on an ongoing basis. This is done in conjunction with the Transportation Department.

The number of outdoor staff has increased incrementally each year since 2014 and it is anticipated that this trend will continue where possible in terms of where it is necessary and appropriate. Please note, however, that this is dependent on specific sanction approval from the DoHPLG as well as the budget to fund same from internal Council resources.

Noted by the Councillors.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Damien O’Reilly

“Can Meath County Council provide in tabular format, how many housing tenants in the county are currently in breach of category's 1-15 of the Council’s anti-social behaviour document?”

Response

In 2017 Meath County Council received 253 complaints relating to breaches of tenancy, equating to 126 cases that required investigation (a number of complaints can be received about the same case). Of the 126 cases, 7 cases were deemed unfounded. Of the balance of cases, 94 were closed, with 25 cases remaining active.

The table below outlines the distribution of closed cases according to the classification of complaint investigated, as detailed in Meath County Council’s Anti Social Behaviour Strategy.

| DISTRIBUTION OF 2017 CLOSED CASES ACCORDING TO CLASSIFICATION TYPE | |
|--|-----------------|
| CLASSIFICATION | NUMBER of CASES |
| Drug dealing | 4 |
| Alcohol / solvent abuse | 0 |
| Unprovoked assault | 0 |
| Violence | 1 |
| Serious harassment | 0 |
| Racial harassment | 2 |



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| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Threatening / abusive behaviour | 2 |
| Frequent serious disturbances | 9 |
| Vandalism / damage to property | 9 |
| Family disputes affecting neighbours | 8 |
| Dog / horse / pet control | 7 |
| Behaviour of children | 13 |
| Verbal harassment | 6 |
| Garden upkeep / rubbish / maintenance | 28 |
| Boundary disputes | 5 |
| TOTAL | 94 |

Noted by the Councillors.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Ronan McKenna

“To ask the Chief Executive what, if any, contact has Eirgrid or its agents had with the Planning Department, or any other Department since An Bord Pleanála’s decision, the detail of any contact and any advice, observation or permission the Council may have given. I ask that the details cover all contact and particularly reference to access routes, access to lands and Eirgrid’s permissions for same?”

Response

An Bord Pleanála, in granting permission to Eirgrid (Ref: VA0017) for the North-South 400kv Interconnector included a number of conditions that require consultation and/or agreement with the relevant Planning Authority, specifically conditions 3,4,5,7,8 and 9.

To date the Planning Section has not received any documentation or requests in respect of compliance with these conditions.

The protocol for receipt and processing of such documentation is that it is submitted in the first instance to the Planning Section who, where necessary, will coordinate responses from other sections and will issue letters of agreement where appropriate. All documentation received and replies issued are public documents and will be publicly available as part of the planning compliance file.

Noted by the Councillors.

8.4 Submitted by Councillor Darren O’Rourke

“To ask the chief executive to provide an update on the Council’s efforts to prepare a register of its lands in line with the recommendations of successive auditors’ reports and



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to best manage the resources available to it; if she will specify the date when a register of lands will be completed and if she will make a statement on the matter / Ceist a chur ar an bPríomhfheidhmeannach uasdhátú a sholathar ar iarrachtaí na Comhairle clár a talún a ullmhú le moltaí thuairiscí iniúchóirí leantacha a chomhlíonadh agus na hacmhainní atá ar fáil di a bhainistiú chomh éifeachtaí agus is féidir; an sonrúidh sí an dáta a chríochnófar clár na talún agus an eiseoidh sí raitéis ar an méid sin.”

Response

Meath County Council has developed a register of all Meath County Council owned land that is currently available in a digitised format. As some of the older folios are being digitised by the Land Registry Office, these are transferred to Meath County Council and uploaded onto the existing register of land. This is an ongoing process and its completion is dependent on the current project to digitise the archive folios in the Land Registry Office.

In addition to the mapping of the landholding, all current files dealt with by the Asset Management Section (Section 183's and leases) are recorded electronically with each file receiving a specific reference code and details such as maps, statutory documents, folios, etc. are recorded electronically in each file.

Noted by the Councillors.

8.5 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher

“Further to planning permission being given for the erection of 5 large scale wind turbines at Tierworker, has the planning Department of Meath County Council researched noise pollution caused by large scale wind turbines for this project and or other similar type applications in the county / I ndiaidh chead pleanála a thabhairt do 5 thuirbín gaoithe móra a chur suas i Tierworker, an ndearna Roinn Pleanála Chomhairle Chontae na Mí taighde ar an truailliú fuaime a dhéanann na tuirbíní móra a bhaineann leis an tionscadal seo agus iarratais cósúil leis sa chontae.”

Response

Planning Permission KA120679 was granted by Meath County Council on 16th July, 2013. The application was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement which contained a chapter on Noise and Vibrations and this would have been considered in the decision making process. Condition 8(b) of the permission requires that all noise measurements shall be carried out in accordance with ISO Recommendation R1996 'Assessment of Noise with Respect to Community Response', as amended by ISO Recommendations R1996-1.



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The planning file including the Environmental Impact Assessment and the planners report are available for public inspection or can be viewed online via www.meath.ie. It should be noted that there were no objections received in relation to this application and the decision to grant permission was not appealed to An Bord Pleanála.

Noted by the Councillors.

8.6 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Keogan

“Will Meath County Council look into rolling out The Smart Technology Energy Saving Scheme from Climote and Electric Ireland to our local authority housing stock?”

Response

In parallel to Meath County Council’s ongoing capital energy upgrade programme on our housing stock that commenced in 2013, the roll out of all Smart Technology Energy Saving Schemes will be examined.

Noted by the Councillors.

9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“To call on Meath County Council to erect signage to prevent any unauthorised vehicles blocking any emergency entrance and exits of slipways in any part of Meath.”

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

As Councillors will be aware, the Council has advanced proposals for the provision of the 7 slipways on the Boyne and Blackwater, and has submitted a full Natura Impact Statement to An Bord Pleanála for approval, to allow such a development proceed as both rivers are designated Natura Sites.

The development, if approved, will incorporate a mixture of appropriate signage and road markings depending on the location and ground conditions of each site, and which will strongly discourage car parking thereon.

There is no statutory basis for the Council to impose fines. However, pending completion of the aforementioned approval process, the existing signage at each location will be reviewed to see where improvements on a temporary basis can be made.

Motion deferred to April meeting.



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9.2 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden

“The members of Meath County Council call on the Transportation SPC to investigate the use of feeder hoppers (fixed & mobile) at various locations throughout the county to better utilise existing resources and, where appropriate, expand the gritting routes. If the SPC deems the proposal feasible, a proposal for full adoption be brought before the Council. This is an attempt to address the problems highlighted to Councillors at the previous review of the gritting routes.”

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

The Winter Maintenance Plan represents the best prioritised extent of coverage based on road classification, historic weather data, average daily traffic counts, and available funding.

A review of the winter gritting network takes place at the end of each season setting out any issues encountered during that period. A full review was presented to the Transportation SPC in 2017. It was agreed that certain parameters should be considered and a criteria for including any new roads set out in a policy document, which was subsequently approved by the Council.

The Transportation SPC will include the proposal in the above motion, for investigation, in its review of the Winter Maintenance Plan for 2017/2018 at the end of the current season.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Trevor Golden** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**, was unanimously adopted. It was also agreed that **Councillor Trevor Golden** would be invited to attend the Transportation SPC as per the motion.

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher

“In light of Meath GAA obtaining planning permission for the re-development of Páirc Tailteann, I call on Meath County Council to help give whatever support, financial or otherwise, as the venture will not only benefit the surrounding area of Navan town, but also the whole sporting fraternity in the county also / Súil caite ar chead pleanála CLG na Mí Páirc Tailteain a athfhorbairt, éilím ar Chomhairle Chontae na Mí cibé tacaíocht, airgeadais nó eile, a thabhairt toisc go mbainfidh tairbhe ní amháin do cheantair maguaird na hUaimhe ach do bhráithreachas spóirt iomlán an Chontae leis chomh maith.”

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



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Planning permission NA171423 was decided by Meath County Council on 31st January, 2018.

While the Council welcomes the plan for the re-development of Páirc Tailteainn, it has no direct remit to offer financial support to the GAA in relation to their proposals. However, the Council is committed to offering support within the Council's remit in relation to the proposed development.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**, was unanimously adopted.

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

“Meath County Council recognises that homes to rent and to purchase are becoming increasingly unaffordable and calls on government to; Immediately introduce ambitious affordable rental and purchase housing schemes led by Local Authorities, and where appropriate, Approved Housing Bodies and Housing Co-operatives with clear annual targets for all local authorities; and to Design the Home Building Finance Ireland fund to prioritise loan finance to small and medium sized builders participating in Council led affordable housing schemes / Aithníonn Comhairle Chontae na Mí go bhfuil tithe ar cíós agus le ceannach ag éirí níos do-acmhainne go méadaitheach agus éilíonn sí ar an rialtas; scéimeanna uailmhianacha inacmhainne ar thithe a cheannach agus a chur ar cíós curtha chun cinn ag Údaráis Áitiúla mar is cuí, Comhlachtaí Ceadaithe Tithíochta agus Comharchumainn Tithíochta le spriocanna bliantúla soiléire do gach údarás áitiúil; agus ciste Mhaoiniú Tógáil Tí na hÉireann a dhearadh ar mhaithe le maoiniú do thógálaithe beaga agus meánmhéide a ghlacann páirt i scéimeanna tithe inacmhainne treoraithe ag Comhairlí a chur chun cinn.”

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Sinead Burke**.

Councillor Sarah Reilly proposed an amendment to the motion i.e. to insert the wording “welcomes the Government’s imminent plan”

Meath County Council, in recognising that homes to rent and to purchase are becoming increasingly unaffordable, welcomes the Government’s imminent plan, and calls for the Immediate introduction of ambitious affordable rental and purchase housing schemes led by Local Authorities, and where appropriate, Approved Housing Bodies and Housing Co-operatives with clear annual targets for all local authorities; and to design the Home Building Finance Ireland fund to prioritise loan finance to small and medium sized builders participating in Council led affordable housing schemes



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The amended motion was unanimously adopted.

9.5 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O' Connor (Cathaoirleach)

"That Meath County Councillors call on the Minister for Health to conduct an urgent review of the criteria for eligibility for the Primary Medical Certificate."

The motion, proposed by **An Chathaoirleach, Councillor Gerry O' Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**, was unanimously adopted.

9.6 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

"That Meath County Council:

- *supports the establishment of an annual national "Make Way Day",*
- *will write to an Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, TD, and to each individual Minister and Minister of State, calling on them to support, establish, fund and resource an annual national "Make Way Day" which would be localised in each region,*
- *will annually support and promote a local #MakeWayMeath campaign as part of the wider "Make Way Day"*

We further propose that Meath lead the way on this issue and contact the Chief Executives and Mayors in all local authorities all over Ireland asking them to join with us in supporting a national #MakeWayDay2018."

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Johnny Guirke**, was unanimously adopted.

9.7 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council to write to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to fully oppose any power transfer (Executive Functions) from the county boundaries to the proposed new directly elected mayor for Dublin."

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Damien O' Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**, 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 & Water Services



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10.3 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Housing

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

Noted by the Councillors.

11 Any Other Business

- **Councillor Alan Tobin** suggested that the Council should sign up to the 'See Change in the Workplace' mental health programme.
- **Councillor Caroline Lynch** noted the reference to Child Protection training in the Annual Service Delivery Plan, and suggested that Councillors should consider completing the online child protection programme provided by the HSE.
- **Councillor Nick Killian** requested that he would receive a hard copy of draft County Development Plan in advance of Friday's meeting.