



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

2nd July 2018, Council Chamber

Presiding

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tom Kelly

Councillors Present:

Councillors Sinead Burke, Eugene Cassidy, 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, Sharon Keogan, Caroline Lynch, Stephen McKee, Ronan McKenna, Paddy Meade, Maria Murphy, Gerry O' Connor, Claire O'Driscoll, Maria O' Kane, Damien O' Reilly, Darren O'Rourke, Bryan Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Seán Smith, Alan Tobin, Gillian Toole.

Apologies: Cllrs. Joe Bonner, Wayne Forde, Nick Killian, Sharon Tolan

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

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Annual meeting held on 11th June 2018.

The minutes of the Annual meeting held on 11th June 2018 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 11th June 2018.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 11th June 2018 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O' Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.



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2 Matters arising from the Minutes

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Pat Carolan, former employee.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Meath County Council Fire Service on its work in bringing the recent bog fires under control.
- The Community Department on the successful bid for Clár funding.
- Cllr. Darren O' Rourke and Cllr. Maria O' Kane on their recent marriage.
- All those involved in the organisation of:
 - Hinterland Festival held in Kells
 - Féile Peile 2018
 - Braveheart run in Trim
 - Dunshaughlin Athletic Club 10k road race
 - Bellewstown Race Committee and staff of Meath County Council and Irish Water on works completed.

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 fill the casual vacancy (1 No.), following the death of Councillor Joe Reilly, in the Membership of Meath County Council, in accordance with Section 19(2) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

It was agreed to defer this item to the September meeting on the request of Sinn Féin Whip, Councillor Sinéad Burke.

- 5.1.2 To receive the 2017 progress report in respect of Meath County Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2019.



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Received and noted by the Councillors.

- 5.1.3 To receive the 2015-2019 Corporate Plan 2018 review.

Received and noted by the Councillors.

- 5.1.4 To note the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee Report 2018.

Des Foley, Director of Services, provided information on the report and noted the two changes in Meath i.e. Millrace Estate and Mill Hill area Duleek, and the Baltrasna area of Ashbourne. It was noted that for towns of over 30,000 population the status had changed from Municipal District to Borough Municipal District, and in that regard Navan has been designated as a Borough Municipal District.

- 5.1.5 To receive and note Meath County Council's Annual Report 2017.

Received and noted by the Councillors.

Councillor Maria Murphy noted that the Disability Committee listed in the Annual Report has not been activated.

5.2 Environment

- 5.2.1 To receive a report on the preparation of the draft County of Meath (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-laws, 2018 and to resolve to place same on public display for the period from Wednesday 4th July 2018 until Friday 24th August 2018 (as recommended by the Environment SPC).

It was resolved to place the Bye-Laws on public display on the proposal of **Councillor Ronan McKenna** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

5.3 Finance

- 5.3.1 To approve the raising of a loan of €2,300,000 from the Housing Finance Agency to provide finance for approved Rebuilding Ireland Housing Loan applications, as authorised by the Housing Acts 1966-1992.



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Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O' Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**.

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:

- Information requested in regard to site works on housing construction project in Dunshaughlin.
- Update requested on the housing scheme in Donore.
- Query re the exclusion of the Dunboyne project from the list of the Approved Housing Body projects in the CE's report.
- The ongoing progress in regard to Housing developments since 2017 was acknowledged.

Transportation:

- Query raised in regard to the impact of the four submissions made to An Bord Pleanála regarding the spine road in Bettystown.
- The breakdown of spend in each Municipal District requested in regard to the Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works

Environment:

- Update requested on the slipways.

Economic Development:

- Further information requested on the Food4 Ideas project.

Community:

- Update requested on the selection of the projects in regard to the Town and Village Renewal Scheme
- It was suggested that community groups should be supported in completing submissions for the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

Responses were provided on the issues raised by the Chief Executive and management team.

6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Corporate Policy Group reviewed the



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agenda for the full Council meeting and received information on the particulars of some items. The CPG also noted the following reports from SPC meetings:

- Housing Community and Cultural SPC meetings held on the 15th June.
- Environmental held on the 22nd June.
- Planning Economic Development & Enterprise held on 27th June.

The CPG agreed that the Council's decision in regard to the Local Property Tax would be considered at the September meeting of the full Council.

6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

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

- A notice of motion from Councillor Gillian Toole in regard to introducing a structured break during Council meetings. It was agreed to recommend that this matter would be considered in the context of a new Council Chamber at Buvinda House.
- It was also agreed to recommend that the links made with the city of Markham, Ontario, during the recent visit by the delegation to Cary would be pursued in the Autumn.

The Meetings Administrator advised that a list of conferences relevant to the business of the Council was approved.

It was also noted that the Meath Association of London's 60th Anniversary celebration would take place on the 28th July in Trim Castle Hotel.

7 Correspondence

No correspondence

8 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden

"Per Municipal District and per year what is the revenue generated by the local property tax for the last 3 years?"



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Response

It is noted that information in relation to the question is not released by the Revenue Commissioners.

Noted by the Councillors.

8.2 Submitted by Cllr. Sharon Keogan

*“For the years 2015, 2016 and 2017 can Meath County Council supply the following:
Totals spent, per year, on waste removal and site remediation due to illegal dumping of household waste.
Income totals, per year, from recycling centre admission charges?”*

Response

Each year Meath County Council receives in excess of 1400 litter and illegal dumping cases. While the majority of cases are dealt with under the Litter Management legislation, a large number are in respect of the illegal dumping of household or other waste, which due to the nature and volumes of materials involved are dealt with under the Waste Management Acts.

A contract is in place with a Waste Collection Company to have the illegally dumped waste removed from public places to an authorised facility following detailed investigation of the material by Waste Enforcement Officers and Community Wardens, as part of evidence gathering for any subsequent enforcement proceedings.

A small truck is used by the company to pick up smaller volumes of waste usually comprising bags of household or other rubbish, sofas, mattresses etc. while a larger grab truck, often supplemented by large Council owned machinery, is used to pick larger piles of waste where access and lifting is an issue. Where waste of a hazardous nature is involved, a specialist contractor is called upon to remove the material involved.

In the vast majority of cases, little or no site remediation is involved after the household or other waste is removed, and it is only in cases where very large volumes of mixed waste are dumped on privately owned lands that remediation becomes an issue. In such cases, the full provisions of the Waste Management Acts are utilised as part of proceedings to have the waste removed by either the landowners or persons known to have been involved in this illegal activity. It is often necessary to go to the Courts to obtain orders against such persons to have the waste removed and the risk of environmental pollution eliminated. However, due to the high levels of proof required, cases can run over a number of years and even where orders are obtained, the means of the offenders to have the remediation carried out is put forward as a defence.



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While there are a number of sites with large volumes of illegally dumped waste currently the subject of investigation and proceedings, the Timoole Landfill site near Rathfeigh is the only major site which the Council organised the remediation process on, and funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment as this case was regarded as coming within the deliverables expected of the State under ECJ Case 494/01. Funding of €6m. was allocated for the remediation of this site, but early indications suggest that the recently completed project will come under budget.

The following Table, extracted from the Annual Financial Statement (AFS), sets out the levels of expenditure incurred by the Council over the three year period referred to in the question in respect of Waste & Littering activities and includes all costs including site specific, staffing, legal, consultancy & other costs. The lower table sets out the expenditure and receipts costs in respect of the operation of the three Civic Amenity Sites.

Environment Services	2015	2016	2017
Landfill Operation and Aftercare	€914,386	€276,711	€1,032,075
Litter Management	€433,863	€423,556	€509,368
Provision of Waste to Collection Services	€154,838	€157,467	€136,734
Recovery & Recycling Facilities Operations	€575,135	€613,991	€522,406
Street Cleaning	€1,669,284	€1,413,402	€1,681,423
Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement	€6,102,929	€10,556,999	€8,122,181
	€9,850,435	€13,442,126	€12,004,187

Operation Costs for Civic Amenity Sites at Navan, Kells & Trim	2015	2016	2017
Recycling Centre Gates Receipts	€151,463	€153,176	€137,201
Recycling Centres Operation Costs	€424,299	€459,035	€386,301
Nett Costs	€272,836	€305,859	€249,100

Noted by the Councillors.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane



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“With reference to Japanese knotweed, which has been treated by employees of Meath County Council, may I ask if community groups are allowed to cut these toxic weeds in preparation for Pride of Place judging?”

Response

Japanese knotweed is highly invasive and an extremely difficult species. Cutting is strongly discouraged as it results in more vigorous growth from the cut infestation and the viable debris can then be spread by wind to unaffected sites with tiny fragments regenerating new plants and making the problem even more difficult to manage. It is illegal to allow Japanese knotweed spread to the wild.

Current control measures are limited to a combination of physical and chemical means and chemical means alone. It is recommended that a person with sufficient training, experience and knowledge in the control of non-native invasive species should be employed to assist in the planning and execution of control measures in relation to Japanese knotweed.

Noted by the Councillors.

9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted Councillor Trevor Golden

“Arising from Item 9.3 of the September 2017 Ordinary Meeting and subsequent meeting of the Transport SPC we call for Meath County Council to prepare a proposal for the members consideration, circulated prior to our budget meeting this year, of the cost implications as set out in Item 9.3. The proposal will be an item on the agenda. This motion does not seek any implementation or changes at this time, its purpose to provide members with the appropriate information to make an informed decision during the budget process. This motion does not seek to limit amendments or additions that are in the spirit of the proposal.”

See content of 9.3 below:

For Meath County Council to prepare a document for the consideration of the members detailing the following:

The revenue generated and the operating cost of paid parking across the county and per Municipal District. The annual cost of paid parking bye-law enforcement across the county and per Municipal District.

The cost implication (€/%) to Commercial Rates if parking charges were to be abolished with the retention of enforcement for time limits and illegal parking).



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

NOM - queries	Countywide	Kells	Navan	Trim
The revenue generated from paid parking	€1,425,706	€225,000	€965,706	€235,000
The annual cost of paid parking bye-law enforcement	€945,057	€225,799	€482,908	€236,350
The cost implication (€/%) to Commercial Rates if parking charges were to be abolished with the retention of enforcement for time limits and illegal parking	€1,225,706 or an increase of 4%	<i>Estimated reduction in annual costs of enforcement and administration (incl. repairs to parking machines, cash collection and reduced legal costs) = €200,000.</i> <i>Costs of this NOM = €1,425,706 - €200,000 = €1,225,706</i>		

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Trevor Golden** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**. Based on the supporting information, the motion was noted.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council, to write to the Minister of Health requesting the department to launch a national awareness campaign for every household in Ireland to hold a stock of non enteric coated aspirin. Aspirin is of benefit in the early management of heart attack and stroke. The combination of these two conditions remain the greatest cause of mortality in Ireland."

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Damien O' Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna**, 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



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Noted by the Councillors.

11 Any Other Business

- **Councillor Sinéad Burke** raised the matter of the visit of the Hungarian Ambassador to Meath and her concerns in relation to Hungary's anti-immigration reforms. Councillor French informed the Council that he had provided a tour of Trim on the day of the visit and had discussed the matter with the Ambassador.
- **Councillor Trevor Golden** raised the issue of the bog fires and the scale of illegal dumping in the bogs.
- **Councillor Maria Murphy** commented on the recent visit by JPC members to Garda facilities in Wexford and noted the importance of receiving information in regard to the future of the site at County Hall.
- **Councillor Gillian Toole** provided updates on positive developments in regard to the work of the North Eastern Regional Drugs Task Force.

This concluded the business of the meeting.