



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

1st October 2018, Council Chamber

Presiding

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tom Kelly

Councillors Present:

Councillors Joe Bonner, Sinead Burke, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Seán Drew, Edward Fennessy, 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, Sharon Keogan, Nick Killian, 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, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole.

Apologies: Cllrs. Edward Fennessy, Nick Killian, Maria O' Kane

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Jackie Maguire

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

Meetings' Administrator: Olive Falsey

Senior Executive Officers: Robert Collins, Dara McGowan, Larry Whelan

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 3rd September 2018.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 3rd September 2018 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations



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Sympathy was extended to:

- Dympna Herward and Shirley Ward, Library Service, on the death of their mother/grandmother Dympna Ward.
- Gabriel Cribben, former Councillor, on the death of his brother Dermot Cribben.
- Tragic fatality at music festival in Fairyhouse.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Slane GFC, Longwood GAA, Na Fianna club Enfield and Meath ladies football on their recent sporting success.
- All Tidy Town groups on their success in the National Tidy Towns competition.
- Community Department on the organisation of Make Way Day in Meath.
- All involved in the organisation of Dunshaughlin Harvest festival.
- Luke Mitchell and Aisling Costello on being selected for All Star Minor team.
- Rape Crisis Centre North East on new counselling services.
- Councillor Stephen McKee on the birth of his new baby.

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 Finance

5.1.1 To amend resolution adopted on 2nd July 2018 to now read:

To approve the raising of a loan of €2,300,000 from the Housing Finance Agency to provide finance for approved house purchase applications, loan restructuring and other housing loan related activities, as authorised by the Housing Acts 1966-1992.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

To amend resolution adopted on 3rd September 2018 to now read:

To approve the raising of a loan of €2,500,000 from the Housing Finance Agency to provide finance for approved house purchase applications, loan restructuring and other housing loan related activities, as authorised by the Housing Acts 1966-1992.



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Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

5.2 Planning

- 5.2.1 To consider the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received in respect of proposed amendments to the Meath County Development Contribution Scheme 2016-2021 and if thought fit, to resolve to make the amendments, or to vary or modify the amendments to the Scheme otherwise than as recommended in the Chief Executive's Report, or otherwise decide not to make amendments to the Meath County Development Contribution Scheme 2016-2021, in accordance with Section 48 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2018.

Seán Clarke, Senior Executive Officer, made a presentation and outlined the background to the process, and the proposed amendments and modifications to the scheme.

Councillors resolved to make the amendments to the Meath County Development Contribution Scheme 2016-2021 on the proposal of **Councillor Ronan McKenna** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

5.3 Economic Development

- 5.3.1 To receive a presentation from Dr. Pat McCloughan, PMCA Economic Consulting, on the Mid-Term Review of the Economic Development Strategy for County Meath 2014 – 2022.

Dr. McCloughan made a presentation to the Councillors and provided a progress report on the targets, as outlined in Economic Development Strategy. It was acknowledged that good progress was being made in regard to the actions in the Strategy. The presentation was noted by the Councillors.

5.4 Environment

- 5.4.1 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 if thought fit to adopt same.

Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer, provided an update to the Councillors. A lengthy debate took place on the matter and Councillors raised a number of



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issues, particularly in regard to illegal dumping, prosecutions and enforcement of the bye laws.

Responses were provided by Larry Whelan to the issues raised. **Councillor Trevor Golden** proposed that additional wording would be included in relation to investigations and due process. The proposal was seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan**. Following a further debate on the matter, it was agreed to adopt the byelaws, as presented, on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O' Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

Councillor Golden requested that his objection would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

5.5 Community

5.5.1 To approve a replacement member of the Meath LCDC, Noel Maguire, representing SIPTU Meath.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

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:

- Clarification sought on the figures re Kells housing development.
- Information sought on CPO of residential property in the county.
- Assurances sought on delivery date for Túath development at Blackcastle, Navan.
- Request that acquisition of 4 bed bungalows would be prioritised.
- The achievements re Rebuilding Ireland targets were welcomed.
- The increase in refusal rates should be examined.

Planning

- Reduction in planning applications noted, and a request for some information and comparative figures in that regard.

Community:

- The Creative Ireland Programme being implemented by the Library Service was welcomed (i.e. – writers visiting a number of schools in the county), and it was



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suggested that other aspects of children's creativity would be developed in the future.

Corporate Services

- National review of Electoral Register welcomed.

The Chief Executive and management team provided responses on the issues raised by the Councillors.

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 also noted the report from the Housing Community and Cultural Development SPC meeting held on 14th September.

- 6.2.1 To approve, as agreed by the CPG, on the recommendation of the Transportation SPC, the development of a policy and procedure document covering the appointment of School Wardens at new locations, and the process for dealing with communication with schools and parents.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.

6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator advised as follow:

- Protocol Committee considered and approved the proposals put forward at the September meeting to recognise Trim Cycling Club and Kells Handball Club on their recent achievements.
- A proposal from the Navan Municipal District to erect a plaque at Mellows Terrace to commemorate the centenary of the first Dáil and the election of the 1st T.D. for Meath, Liam Mellows. It was agreed to refer the matter to the Commemorations Committee.
- A list of conferences relevant to the business of the Council was approved and reports from Councillors who attended recent conferences were noted.

The report from the Protocol Committee was noted by the Councillors.



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7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality in response to Notice of Motion 9.4 adopted at the May 2018 meeting of the full Council re. Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.2 Correspondence from the Office of the Tánaiste in response to Notice of Motion 9.9 adopted at the April 2018 meeting of the full Council re. Passport Services.

- 7.3 Violence Disclosure Scheme.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.4 Circular WP08/18 – Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment re. Enforcement of National Waste Priority Household & Commercial Waste Management Compliance.

- 7.5 Violence Disclosure Scheme.

Noted by the Councillors.

8 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“In relation to planning laws for take away businesses, how many outlets are permitted to operate within a street, for example, how many metres apart should the businesses be from each other and, if permission is granted, are there restrictions regarding opening hours?”

Response

Each application is dealt with on its own merit;

ED OBJ 10 of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 aims to ‘prevent over development of particular non-retail uses such as takeaways in Core Retail Areas.’

While 4.5.8 of the Navan Development Plan 2009-2015 states;

4.5.8 Fast Food Outlets/Takeaways/Betting shops/Nightclubs & Licenced Premises



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Takeaways, betting shops, nightclubs and licenced premises can generate noise, odour and litter, and can cause disturbance to nearby residents, particularly late at night. The following factors will be taken into account in the assessment of development proposals for such outlets:

- The need to retain, protect and strengthen the retail and general variety and multi-use function of the area;
- The adequacy of existing facilities in the locality;
- The cumulative effect of the proposed development on the amenities in the area, and;
- The effect of the proposed development on the existing mix of land uses and activities in the area.

Noted by the Councillors.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

“Can Meath County Council provide in tabular format how many new graveyard sites / fields have active Part 8 planning processes complete in Meath?”

Response

While there are a number of site suitability investigations ongoing for graveyard sites including Dunboyne , Trim and Stamullen, no sites have progressed to the Part 8 stage as yet. The most recent Part 8 process was completed for the Derrockstown Burial Garden in 2009.

Noted by the Councillors.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden

“What percentage of total street lighting has been upgraded to LED and what are the targets for the remaining upgrades?”

Response

Currently 8% of the public lighting in Co. Meath is provided by LED lights. Please note that there is a business case being prepared at national level, for the upgrading of the entire public lighting infrastructure. The outcome of this process will identify the types of products to be used and potential timelines for the financing of and undertaking the proposed upgrade works.

Noted by the Councillors.



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9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons

“I propose the motion that Meath County Council seeks to acquire town centre properties, in order to provide 1 & 2 bed housing units, which are the most sought after by those on the housing list, thereby reducing numbers on the housing list and helping to regenerate town centre locations.”

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

The Housing Department will pursue all opportunities to maximise social housing delivery, including one and two-bed units in town centre locations, where available. This will primarily be achieved through our standard acquisition programme and/or Buy & Renew Scheme.

Furthermore, opportunities may also become apparent in the context of Meath County Council’s Vacant Homes Action Plan, as surveys are completed county wide, in line with the methodology contained within the Action Plan.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**, was unanimously adopted.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor David Gilroy

“As the negative effects of derelict and vacant commercial properties on towns and villages across our county continue to hinder business and community growth, I call on Meath County Council to begin the process of reducing the rates rebate currently offered to owners of these properties.”

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

SI No 226 of 2014 Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014 sets out the proportion of the refund that shall apply in relation to vacant commercial properties. This rate of refund is decided at the annual budget meeting by the elected members.

The vacancy policy for all Municipal Districts within Meath is currently set at 100% refund.



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There will be significant change and uncertainty as the revaluation of all commercial and industrial properties within the Meath County Council administrative area takes place in 2019, and taking effect in 2020. In order to avoid additional uncertainty, it is proposed that the refund policy for 2019 will remain unchanged at 100%.

The economic climate is such that it continues to be a factor in the level of vacant commercial properties in our towns and villages. A 100% refund only applies where a property is actively available for sale or letting.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor David Gilroy** and seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden**, was adopted following a debate on the matter.

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

“In light of recent and hopefully future planned works on the water supply to County Meath, Meath County Council will compile a list of critical establishments in the county which will be notified directly and in advance of any water stoppages. This list should include and not exclusively schools, nursing homes etc. this notification will allow centres to make necessary arrangements and negate the need to constantly monitor council social media and press / Súil caite ar oibriúcháin a rinneadh le déanaí agus a dhéanfar sa toidhcháí, le cúnamh Dé, go gcuirfeadh Comhairle Chontae na Mí liosta fhoirgnimh éigeandála sa chontae le chéile a gcuirfead ar an eolas go díreach agus roimh gearruithe uisce ar bith. Ba chóir do scoileanna, tithe altanais srl a bheith san áireamh ar an liosta. Leis an réamheolas seo ní bheadh orthu socrúcháin a dhéanamh agus a bheith ag braith ar mheáin sóisialta na Comhairle agus na nuachtáin.”

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

The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) has issued guidelines in relation to the required levels of service and protection that Irish Water should provide to their customers.

In this regard, a minimum of 24 hours ahead of planned water interruptions, Irish Water issues notification to their customers on its website. The Council supplements this by posting notification on its website and by notifying local elected representatives.

In addition, where planned interruptions are significant in terms of duration and/or numbers of customers affected, particularly where the planned interruption is as a consequence of capital improvement works, advance notification to customers (especially schools, hospitals, nursing homes and businesses) is undertaken by way of letter, phone call or calling to doors.

Where unplanned works arise e.g. to repair a burst water main, no advance notification is possible but, as soon as possible after the incident occurs, the Council on behalf of Irish Water post notification on Irish Water's website and Meath County Council's



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website and social media platforms. Local elected representatives are also notified. Where an unplanned incident is significant, in terms of duration, we endeavour to inform and assist customers, particularly hospitals, schools and nursing homes.

The Council in conjunction with Irish Water continues to urge customers, most particularly businesses, nursing homes and schools, who do not already have 24 hours of water storage on their premises, to have such storage installed, as this will help ensure that they can continue to operate normally when planned or unplanned water supply interruptions arise.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**. The motion was adopted subject to the supporting information provided.

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole (deferred from September meeting)

"Meath County Council calls upon Minister Shane Ross to take responsibility for the immediate improvement in fare structure, customer service & service reliability of Bus Éireann to its customers in Meath."

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Enda Flynn**.

Following a debate on the motion, an amendment was proposed by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**, seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**, to insert the wording 'and Irish Rail' after Bus Éireann. The motion was duly adopted.

9.5 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole (deferred from September meeting)

"Meath County Council calls on the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána to introduce a system of uniform Garda vetting i.e. that one Garda vetting applies to all activities undertaken by a person in an organisation/ group/ club etc."

Councillor Toole withdrew the motion.

9.6 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch (deferred from September meeting)

"This Council calls on Minister Halligan to intervene to resolve the annual difficulties occurring with the school transport scheme because the criteria about concessionary ticket allocation is not fit for purpose / Éilíonn an Chomhairle ar an Aire Halligan gníomh a dhéanamh chun na deacrachtaí bliantúla a bhaineann leis an gcóras iompar scoile, toisc nach bhfuil na critéir a bhaineann le ticéidí lamháltas a chur ar fáil cuí, a réitiú."



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

9.7 Submitted by Sinn Féin Councillors (deferred from September meeting)

This Council is deeply concerned about the imminent threat of closure of up to 390 Post Offices throughout the country and the threat to the long-term future of the remaining 690 Post Offices, and calls on Government to:

1. *Enact 'Private Members Dáil Motion of the 11th November, 2016.'*
2. *Postpone the closure of Post Offices while the Kiwi Post Bank model for the Irish Post Office network is developed./ Éilíonn an Chomhairle seo ar an Rialtas*
1. *An Rún Príobháideach na mBall Dála den 11 Samhain 2016 a chur chun feidhme*
2. *Dúnadh na hOifigí Poist a chur ar athló go dtí go bhforbrófar an múnla Kiwi Post Bank do ghréasán na nOifigí Poist Éireannach."*

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Darren O' Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**, was unanimously adopted.

9.8 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher (deferred from September meeting)

"That Meath Co. Council calls on the Dept. of Justice and the Minister for Justice to reform the Irish Legal system as was suggested by the Troika when they arrived in Ireland / Éilíonn Comhairle Contae na Mí ar an Roinn agus an Aire Cirt athchóiriú a dhéanamh ar chóras dlíthúil na hÉireann de réir mar a dúirt an Troikea nuair a tháinig siad go hÉirinn."

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

9.9 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council, to write to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government requesting the Minister to ensure that Local Authorities can continue to include local needs policies in County Development Plans, and that any guidelines on rural housing, issued as a consequence of the National Planning Framework, do not prevent the granting of rural planning permission in cases of genuine local need."

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

9.10 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden



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“To call on the Minister of Finance to abolish VAT on safety equipment for cyclists.”

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Trevor Golden** and seconded by **Councillor Enda Flynn**, was unanimously adopted.

9.11 Submitted by the Independent Technical Group

“To facilitate community lead CCTV schemes, the Council calls on the Minister for Justice and Equality to assign the role of Data Controller from the Chief Executives of the local authorities to an appropriate member of An Garda Síochána in each area.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden**.

The Chief Executive advised that the motion should be amended to say **Council** rather than **Chief Executives of the local authorities**. The amendment was agreed by the Technical Group and the motion was adopted.

9.12 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

“In view of the shortage of rented accommodation for HAP scheme can the Minister review the criteria for repair and rent scheme to change it from a loan scheme to a grant, to encourage more landlords to improve the quality of their properties and make them HAP compliant / Súil caite ar an easpa lóistín ar cíós don scéim HAP, ar mhiste leis an Aire athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an scéim athchóiriú agus cur ar cíós chun é a athrú ó scéim iasachta go deontas ar mhaithe lena thuilleadh tiarnaí talún a mhealladh chun caighdeán a maoine a fheabhsú agus iad a bheith oiriúnach don scéim HAP.”

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** 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

10.4 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Community



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Noted by the Councillors.

11 Any Other Business