



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 20th February, 2019, Navan Civic Offices

An Meára, **Councillor Jim Holloway**, presided.

Councillors Present: Sinéad Burke, Francis Deane, Edward Fennessy, Padraig Fitzsimons, Wayne Forde, Tommy Reilly.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Kevin Stewart

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Paul O'Brien

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 23rd January, 2019.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 23rd January 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Jean Whelan, Corporate Services on the death of her mother, Mary;
- Michael McDonagh, Navan Travellers Workshop on the death of his brother.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Congratulations were extended to:

- Justin Farrell, Transportation on his new post in the department;
- The staff of the Housing Section on the new housing units on Kennedy Crescent, Proudstown Road.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

- 4.1.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Navan Municipal District.

The report had been circulated in advance and a further update was provided.

Matters raised by councillors included acknowledgement of the speed ramps in Parnell Park, the possibility of improving the footpath surface under the bridge at Athlumney and the repair of potholes in Moatville. Reference was also made to the recent canvassing of views in Claremont with regard to the playground. Efforts had been made to maximise the number of returns and the results are being collated, with a majority view to determine the outcome. The playground in Clogherboy was raised with a suggestion being the reduction of equipment to satisfy demand and reduce maintenance costs.

Paul McNulty, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation provided an update on the proposed works at the fire station junction, with works due to commence in early to mid April and every effort to be made to minimise disruption.

- 4.1.2 To consider and adopt the 2019 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Section outlined the schedule of works as they relate to housing, including the service categories, funding allocations per municipal district, the centralised budgets and updates on the previous year.

Matters raised by councillors included:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Requested further information on the planned maintenance works planned for St. Patrick's Park and the level of illegal dumping at the site – it was acknowledged that there were a number of issues relating to overcrowding, illegal occupations, etc. and that, whilst considerable works had been undertaken a number of years ago, routine maintenance was required.
- Requested clarification on the energy upgrade works and any trials undertaken with regard to solar power – the works and progress in relation to Phase I were outlined, following the completion of which, Phase II works could commence. Whilst the newest technology with regard to energy efficiency features in new units, the retrofitting of existing stock is limited.
- The average re-let expenditure and tenant responsibility to maintain houses – it was pointed out that funding for re-let works is currently available and represents an investment in council assets, reducing maintenance costs and benefiting new tenants. The cost can also be affected by the age of the property and, in some cases, lack of maintenance by previous tenants.

Des Foley, Director of Service, Transportation referred to additional resources, including funding and staffing, allocated to transportation services in recent years. As funding for roads represents approximately one third of the overall council budget, the challenge is the delivery of the programme taking into account issues such as tender prices and securing the services of contractors. In addition to the works outlined in the schedule, works are ongoing on footpaths, public lighting and CIS/LIS. The SMDW refers to the revenue budget only, with the capital programme to be presented at the April full council meeting.

John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Transportation outlined the schedule of works in detail, under the various headings.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The poor condition of the roadway, trees & hedges at the bridge at the Boyne in Stackallen – it was pointed out that the car park had been



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

upgraded in 2018 and it was agreed to look at this in conjunction with Laytown-Bettystown & Ashbourne Municipal Districts.

- The extent of the street sweeping programme at weekends – it was pointed out the street sweeping programme runs over 5 days with bins emptied and litter picked in central areas on Saturdays and Sundays. The costs of staff and waste disposal were outlined. The two new Tidy Towns committees, both recently established, were welcomed and it was agreed to work with these groups into the future.
- Welcomed the increased funding allocation for roads, the planned works at the fire station junction and the progress made in 2018.
- The process for inclusion on the public lighting programme and the LED upgrade – it was pointed out that the allocation under the SMDW is for maintenance and repairs. A rolling programme, included in the capital programme, of additional lighting included Blackwater Park and Boyne Road in 2018 and Market Square in 2019. Councillors were advised to submit locations for consideration against the public lighting policy previously adopted. A national retrofit scheme has also been proposed to run over a number of years to move towards LED.
- The nature of the drainage works planned – this funding is provided by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for the alleviation of road drainage problems.
- The provision of public lighting in the alleyways in Silverlawns.
- The need to address the issues at Casey's Cross – it was acknowledged that works are required with the intention at looking at the road section from the junction to the traffic lights in conjunction with the lands at Farganstown.
- The timeframe for works in St. Mary's Park and Beechmount.

The 2019 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Navan was unanimously adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

4.1.3 To receive an update on the Navan Town (Navan 2030) Scheme.

Cormac Ross, Resident Engineer, Transportation provided an update, which included stakeholder engagement held and planned, surveys undertaken, the tender process and approach, the first stages to be undertaken and the estimated timeframe for works to commence and be completed.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The taxi rank on Abbey Road – it was confirmed that some taxi spaces would remain during construction works.
- Communications strategy and the importance of ensuring accurate information is conveyed – a stakeholder engagement forum had taken place at the end of 2018, meetings had taken place with Bus Éireann and other interested parties, business owners are to be approached in the coming weeks and a communication strategy is in place, to include newsletters, social media and engagement with councillors.
- The likely impact of Brexit – it was pointed out that many UK companies have a European base but there remains considerable uncertainty.

4.2 Community

4.2.1 To receive an update on Part 8 for Johnstown Playground.

Emmanuel Mwadiwa, Executive Engineer, Community Department provided an update on the Part 8 process for the proposed playground in Johnstown, with the drawings now complete and the project ready to go to Part 8. An outline of the site was provided and the Part 8 process outlined.

Matters raised by councillors included the provision of accessible equipment, the target age profile and the plans to secure the playground at certain times. The age profile is 3-12 years, with a junior section (3-7 years) and a senior section (8-12 years). Sensory needs equipment is to be provided with the list of



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

equipment currently being finalised. It was confirmed that there was no policy currently in place with regard to closing/locking the playground.

4.2.2 To receive an update on Part 8 for Changing Facilities in Blackwater Park.

Emmanuel Mwadiwa confirmed that the Part 8 was ready to go on public display, with the proposed works and location outlined. Efforts were being made to identify possible funding sources and councillors were reminded that the capital programme would come to the full council in April.

Councillors welcomed the progress made and acknowledged how these facilities will contribute to the extension of activities that can take place in the park. Reference was made to the size of the soccer pitch and it was confirmed that efforts were being made to regularise this.

4.3 Corporate Services

4.3.1 To discuss the 2019 Arts, Festivals, Festive Decoration & MD Renewal Budgets.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Jim Holloway** that an allocation of €3,000 would be made to the St. Patrick's Day Festival. Reference was also made to the Community Grants Scheme, for which the deadline for the receipt of applications is 8th March.

With regard to the twinning with Broccastella, an update was provided on upcoming scheduled events including the visit by the Mayor on 21st March and councillors were requested to confirm their availability based on the itinerary circulated.

In response to a query raised, it was confirmed that no communication had been exchanged in recent years in relation to the twinning with Bobbio and it was agreed to consider suggestions as to how the connection might be re-established, e.g. through the schools.

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

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



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“When will promised facilities such as changing rooms/toilets be installed at Blackwater Park?”

Response:

The Community Section is currently progressing with plans and particulars for a Part 8 application. Following the statutory display period, it is anticipated to bring a planning report to the April meeting of Navan Municipal District.

The response was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

“Can the executive update members on the plans to finish the walkway from Millbrook to Johnstown Wood? Currently this walkway is no more than a hole in the wall, with one row of bricks still running along the ground creating a trip hazard and preventing bikes and buggies passing through.”

Response:

It was intended to complete these works last year, but negotiations with the controlling interest in the open space in Millbrook Estate took longer than anticipated. Funding will be sought from the NTA with a view to carrying out these works this year.

The response was noted.

5.3 Submitted by Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons

“If included in our Roadworks Scheme, when is work due to start on the roads in the Robinstown area?”

Response:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The road works programme is on the agenda for the next Navan Municipal District meeting. Assuming it is agreed and considering that the works are taking place directly outside a school it is hoped that a contractor will have been appointed to undertake the works during the Easter break but if the contractor is not appointed then it will be during the summer holidays.

The response was noted.

5.4 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

“Can I get an update on the appointment of a parks manager for the Blackwater Park in Navan?”

Response:

The Community Section is progressing a number of projects within the park which includes the installation of Public Lighting along the footpath, outdoor gym equipment and the preparation of documentation for Part 8 planning for the development of changing rooms, toilet facilities and office space. Once these projects are progressed, the council will be in a better position to seek the appointment of a parks manager to oversee the running of the park.

In the interim, Navan Municipal District outdoor staff and parks section will continue to maintain the park, cut the grass, empty bins, along with the weekly inspections of the playground equipment.

The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can I call on the Executive to erect a monument of Larry Campbell, who worked tirelessly for Navan Municipal District in keeping Navan so clean.”

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



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Mr. Larry Campbell was a long-standing and very dedicated member of staff of Meath County Council. The Council extends its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mr. Campbell and he will be deeply missed by the management, staff and his colleagues in Meath County Council and by many people in Navan and the surrounding areas.

The Council was delighted to honour Larry Campbell in 2016 with a special Pride of Place Award, by then Mayor of Navan Cllr Tommy Reilly, for his work, commitment and dedication to Navan Municipal District. This award was a source of great pride for Mr. Campbell and his family. The Executive is of the view that this was the most appropriate way to recognise Mr. Campbell and his work and is not considering any further commemorations in his honour.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

During the discussion that followed, reference was made to the decision taken by the Protocol Committee regarding the erection of monuments and related timeframe, in addition to the memorial garden currently being constructed at Buvinda House to remember late members of staff, councillors, etc.

It was agreed that this motion would be referred to the Protocol Committee.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can I call on the Executive to consider the provision of a heritage centre in the Town Hall on Watergate Street and consider the suggestion / idea of a tourist office at the front of this building going forward.”

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

The Town Hall on Watergate Street is currently in use by a number of people, with no available space for a heritage centre. Meath County Council have worked with the Navan and District Historical Society in the past and would be willing to work with the Society by making the chamber available on a temporary basis, for a pop up museum/heritage space in the future, if requested.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The provision of a tourist office in the front reception area of the Town Hall was considered previously, however there is no funding allocation in the revenue or capital budgets to provide and operate this resource.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

The motion was adopted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“That Meath County Council will work with the newly formed Navan Municipal Tidy Towns Committee in an effort to address litter blackspots in the Navan area.”

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

Meath County Council is glad to hear that an official Tidy Towns Group has been formed for the town and will endeavour to provide assistance in whatever way it can to contribute towards the enhanced appearance of the County town of Meath.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**.

The motion was adopted.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“I propose that Navan Municipal District would put a budget plan in place to address issues in relation to overgrown trees in Navan housing estates.”

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

Unfortunately there is no specific annual budget set aside for the maintenance of trees in Navan Municipal District and funding for such works has to be found from existing resources at the appropriate time of year for such activities. The level of tree



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

maintenance depends on the number and condition of tree's requiring attention as determined by a qualified professional in this field and Navan MD acts on advice and recommendations from such a person. The consideration of specific funding for such works is something that Members may take into account at the annual budget meeting each year.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**.

The motion was adopted.

6.5 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

“That this council, by recognizing the importance of promoting our local heritage and by ensuring pedestrian safety, will consult with the relevant stakeholders with a view to installing suitable and effective public lighting across Kilcarn Bridge.”

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

Meath County Council have no current plans to provide public lighting along Kilcarn Bridge. This can be added to the list of public lighting requests and can be considered in the future, if funding becomes available.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Edward Fennessy**.

The motion was adopted.

6.6 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

“That Navan Municipal District, in support of the Clusker Park Residents Neighbourhood Watch and the fantastic work they are doing for their estate, will erect a no alcohol sign on the large green area of the estate, similar to the sign on display at the playground on Borden Keel.”



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

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

Navan Municipal District will enter this request on our programme of works for the near future. There are no such similar signs available in our stock so we will have to place an order.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Jim Holloway**.

The motion was adopted.

6.7 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway

“To further encourage sustainable modes of transport, to deliver on the Navan Transport Plan and to further advance Navan 2030 Navan Municipal District will provide assistance, where appropriate, by way of grant aid for the installation of bicycle stands and shelters within schools in Navan town.”

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

Meath County Council, with assistance from the National Transport Authority, is currently working on a number of measures and delivering various schemes to develop integrated transport in the County and to promote public transport, walking, cycling and other sustainable forms of transport. At present, the National Transport Authority provides funding to An Taisce’s Green Schools Programme (Green-Schools Travel: Cycle Parking Grants) to provide cycle parking in schools participating in that scheme. Meath County Council fully supports this approach and will provide assistance to schools in County Meath participating in the Green Schools programme with the delivery of cycle parking infrastructure.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Jim Holloway** and seconded by **Councillor Edward Fennessy**.

The motion was adopted.

6.8 Submitted by Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

“In the interest of safety, I propose the motion to seek funding for the installation of railings on the edge of the front green at Elm View Close, Clogherboy.”

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

Consideration for this proposal will be made in the context of assessment of pedestrian behaviour and available Municipal District budget. Records show that there are no known instances of accidents at this location but surveys and assessments of pedestrian movements etc. will be carried out to establish need.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Edward Fennessy**.

The motion was adopted.

6.9 Submitted by Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons

“I propose the motion to investigate the possibility of closing the alleyways in Silverlawns and to install lighting in the same alleyways in Silverlawns. Also to install an extra light on the pathway at the back of the Centra shop and to request that Silverlawns be included in the new Public Lighting Scheme.”

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

A request for additional and enhanced public lighting in the mentioned alleyways in Silverlawns has been made to our Public Lighting Section and is being considered in the context of annual budgets and needs. The closing off of such alleyways is not something that Meath County Council considers appropriate as it disrupts normal rights of way and doesn't allow for proper consideration to be made for existing underground services, future use, ownership and maintenance of the alleyways. It is hoped that Meath County Council can work with Members to address any issues which may arise in such situations without the need for closures and extinguishments.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The motion was adopted.

6.10 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

“Navan Municipal District sends solidarity and support to our nurses and midwives who are engaged in strike action to demand a safe, fully staffed, functioning health service that values and pays them as essential skilled workers.”

Following a short discussion, during which the Mayor ruled the motion ‘Out of Order’, Councillor Fennessy agreed, under protest, to withdraw the motion and raise the matter under any other business.

6.11 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

“That Navan Municipal District engages with leaders from the local business, tourism and heritage sectors and other relevant stakeholders with a view to establishing a committee tasked with publishing and promoting a tourism and economic strategy for Navan.”

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

Boyne Valley Tourism’s remit is to promote and develop the entire Boyne Valley destination including Navan.

The current Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy covers the 5 year period 2016-2020 and its objective is to create and sustain direct and indirect employment generated through increased tourism activity focussing on domestic and international markets.

During 2019 Boyne Valley Tourism will be working on developing the tourism offering across the region (including Navan) with the following objectives:

- *working closely with Failte Ireland, Tourism Ireland and the tourism trade to market the Boyne Valley at home and abroad as a key destination in Ireland’s Ancient East*
- *developing the evening economy for tourists*

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- *identifying and developing new visitor experiences*
- *working with Failte Ireland on the development of a Visitor Experience Development Plan (VEDP)*
- *drafting a new 5 year plan to develop the visitor experience in the Boyne Valley based on the ancient theme*
- *the development of destination towns across Ireland's Ancient East to offer a higher level of tourism provision and develop the evening economy with a focus on food and entertainment*

The Council's Economic Strategy, an 8 point plan increase job numbers in Meath by 7,500 to 2022, was launched in 2015. As part of the overall strategy to attract FDI the plan focuses on 5 key locations as attractors for investment. Navan, as our county town and the only Large Growth Town 1 fully within the county, is marketed as a key location together with Ashbourne, Dunboyne (Pace), South Drogheda and Kells. Councillors will recall that a Mid Term Review of the Strategy was carried out in 2018 and presented to the Planning & Economic Development SPC and the full Council. The review confirms that we are either on or ahead of target to deliver the strategy objectives under every heading. The Council engages with business leaders through the combined Meath Chamber of Commerce and indeed assisting and facilitating the setting up of a unified Chamber as a forum for all business was a key objective of the strategy.

The key message in terms of both tourism and general economic development is that there are robust plans and strategies in place and they are delivering for Meath and the wider region. It is suggested that Navan businesses need to engage with the existing plans, strategies and structures rather than developing further plans. Local tourism interests need to participate in the current work being undertaken by Failte Ireland on the preparation of a Visitor Experience Development Plan and to engage with Meath and Boyne Valley Tourism in the next review of the Boyne Valley Strategy in 2020 to ensure the benefits of Navan are fully articulated. It should be noted that of the 195 members of Meath Tourism just 24 (13%) are based in the Navan MD and just 13 in the town area (6%). This contrasts with towns such as Kells and Trim where the tourism agenda is driven by local businesses and the community itself albeit with strong support from local and state bodies.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

The motion was noted.

7 Strategic Policy Committee & Corporate Policy Group Reports – For Information Purposes

- 7.1 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise SPC meeting of 19th December, 2018.

The report was noted.

- 7.2 To note the report from the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC meeting of 1st February, 2019.

The report was noted.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Correspondence received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government re Statutory Instrument No. 8 of 2019.

The correspondence was noted.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Councillor Edward Fennessy raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Requested that a letter issue to the Navan Branch of the INMO expressing the support of Navan Municipal District Councillors to the nurses and midwives in light of their recent demands for a safe, fully staffed and functioning health service that values them as essential skilled workers.

- 9.2 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issue:

9.2.1 The possibility of power washing the footpath in Silverlawns following the



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

removal of a burnt out car.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára