



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### ***Navan Municipal District***

### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***10:00 a.m., 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016, Navan Civic Offices***

An Meára, **Councillor Francis Deane**, presided.

**Councillors Present:** Sinéad Burke, Pádraig Fitzsimons, Wayne Forde, Jim Holloway, Joe Reilly, Tommy Reilly.

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Kevin Stewart

**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King

**Senior Executive Engineer:** Fiona Beers

**Executive Engineer:** Noel Finnegan

**Staff Officer:** Triona Keating

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

##### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Reilly**.

##### **1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.**

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

#### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

#### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

Sympathy was extended to:

- The families and friends of those killed and injured in the Florida shooting.

### **4 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Economic Development**

4.1.1 To receive an update on the Local Enterprise Office – Services and Supports.

Joe English, Head of Enterprise, Meath County Council delivered a presentation to the meeting, which included an overview of the Local Enterprise Officer, the services provided and key contacts.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Supports available to those companies that do not come under the remit of the LEO – it was confirmed that supports other than finance are available to all small companies and that Microfinance Ireland can assist with loans whilst the Leader programme, when available, will be able to assist rural, food & tourism businesses.
- The large market available to companies that are online – the online voucher programme was outlined, with 25 companies having received up to €2,500 in 2015, and it was confirmed that a campaign, in conjunction with the Meath Chambers of Commerce, was to commence with a view to encouraging online trading.
- The need to provide suitable office space for start-up companies.
- Linkages between the LEO and Navan Enterprise Centre, for example with regard to food and multimedia – it was confirmed that they work very closely together.
- The potential impact of the forthcoming UK referendum on leaving the EU.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

- The budget available, and its source – it was pointed out that a fixed budget of €250/300k was available each year from Enterprise Ireland, and that this must be managed against demand, with the possibility of bidding for unspent funding at the end of the year.
- The challenges facing those who wish to develop farm enterprises – it was confirmed that the LEO works with other agencies and tries to assist clients in accessing the appropriate supports.
- The role of Councillors in promoting the training and other supports available.
- The provision of mentoring – it was confirmed that this service was mostly provided by non-LEO staff, including retired senior managers, but that it can be difficult to access some specialist people, for example from the high-tech industries.
- The need to plan for a changing jobs market.

The Mayor and Councillors thanked Joe for his presentation and commended the work being undertaken by the LEO and the Economic & Enterprise team.

### 4.2 Transportation

- 4.2.1 To consider and, if thought fit, to approve for public display the “Draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) (Housing Estates) County of Meath Bye-Laws (No.1) 2016.

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**.

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

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



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

- The need to find a solution to the issues of the boundary fence and the completion of works at the entrance to the cinema off Kennedy Road.
- The possibility of continuing the strimming at Belcourt, Slane Road – it was confirmed that this would be continued, with staff working on a rota basis.
- The need for additional signage to indicate the location of the tourist office in Solstice.
- The recent issues with street sweeping – it was confirmed that the street sweeper had broken down and that another was currently on hire.
- The issue of illegal dumping to the rear of Ludlow Street – it was confirmed that the Environment Section was dealing with this.

### **4.3 Corporate Services**

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

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

## **5 Notice of Question**

### **5.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde**

“Are there plans by the executive of Meath County Council under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 to ask the HSE what plans they have for the old Meath County Council yard adjacent to Our Lady's Hospital in Navan with 5 acres disgracefully lying idle and derelict the last number of years and which is a complete eyesore and in ownership by the HSE?”

#### **Response:**

## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

*The Derelict nature of the HSE owned site was the subject of various complaints by both elected members of the Council and members of the public and particularly the condition of the buildings thereon which it was suggested were in a potentially dangerous state and also the subject of anti-social behaviour. In response to such complaints the Council raised the matter with the HSE who arranged for the demolition of all such buildings and carried out further remediation of the site in the interests of risk mitigation as well as the prevention of anti social behaviour.*

*The HSE have confirmed that they have no specific plans for the site at present and that no capital funding provision has been made available for any development thereon.*

*The Council are satisfied that the HSE have taken all reasonable steps to address the poor condition of the site and do not consider that any further action provided for in the Derelict Sites Act 1990 is justified at this time.*

The response was noted.

### **5.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

“When will works commence to construct the cantilever at Newbridge, Timmons Hill, R153, and what are the proposed traffic management plans and timescale for this project?”

**Response:**

*The Enabling/Maintenance contract on the existing bridge is complete. Part 8 documents are being finalised for commencement in June 2016. Consultants are currently preparing the detailed design and tender documentation for the proposed structure works with a view to tender in mid 2016.*

The response was noted.

## **6 Notice of Motion**

### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Sineád Burke**



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

“That Meath County Council engages with the Department of Education and Skills to explore turning the Old St. Martha's College building on the Johnstown Education Campus into a community centre facility for the Johnstown area.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Reilly**.

A short discussion followed on the options for providing community facilities in Johnstown to cater for a large and growing population and the plans for this particular building.

The motion was adopted.

### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde**

"Can I call on the executive for the provision of public lights from the Balreask crossroads to Balreask Vale on the Trim Road in Navan in the interests of public safety."

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

*An initial survey and estimate to install lighting on the R161 from the Balreask Manor to MDL was carried out. The estimated cost is €194,000; the actual cost would be subject to a final design and competitive tendering process.*

*It is recommended however, that a feasibility study should be undertaken to establish the suitability of installing lighting on this section of road. The study would look at traffic and pedestrian volumes, accident records and future planning proposals for this area. To enable this study to be carried out would require funding to be made available and this funding is not available at present.*

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

The motion was adopted.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### **6.3 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde**

"Can I call on the executive to seek funding to carry out emergency footpath repairs between 93 and 96 Clusker Park and between 28 and 29 Parnell Park, Navan in the interests of public safety."

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

*As the footpaths at 93-96 Clusker Park are in a poor condition as a result of damage caused by a bus regularly being parked on same, it is proposed that this section of footpath is repaired as part of the 2016 footpath works. The total quantity of footpath works achievable will be assessed once tender prices have been received, and if there is not sufficient funding to cover all the proposed repairs some non-essential works would have to be omitted from the list.*

*The footpaths located at 28 and 29 Parnell Park do not require emergency repair works, so they will be added to the list of maintenance works required, to be carried out in future programmes on a priority basis.*

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

The motion was adopted.

### **6.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

"Navan Municipal District are presently maintaining 11.2 hectares of green area in 76 locations. I call on Navan Municipal District to investigate whether wild flower meadows could be grown in some of these green areas, on a two-year pilot scheme, thereby reducing labour for our overstretched outdoor staff, also could Navan Municipal District look into the possibility of providing grant aid to community/residential groups as a means to reducing their maintenance costs."



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

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

*The costs and workload involved in implementing and maintaining wild flower meadows will be investigated, as well as their suitability in various locations.*

*Community grants are available under several categories which can assist various community/residents groups in the costs associated with maintaining their areas or if there are specific projects they wish to deliver. Applications are usually sought from groups in March each year with notification of allocations being made as soon as possible after the closing date. Grants are paid once receipts are submitted. Given the high number of applications and the limited funding available, every effort is made to ensure qualifying groups under each category receive a grant allocation.*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Jim Holloway**.

A short discussion followed on examples of this approach taken in other cities, including a pilot scheme in Crumlin. It was suggested that Dr. Patricia Kettle, NUIM, who resides in Navan and who has a doctorate in the area of urban agriculture, be invited to discuss this at the July meeting of Navan Municipal District.

The motion was adopted.

### **6.5 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

“That Meath County Council, Navan Municipal District write to An Post with a view to allowing for a set down area which would also accommodate a disabled parking space at the main post office on Kennedy Road, Navan. I suggest this be done in the coming weeks, during the time in which Meath County Council has planned to carry out works to the roundabout near Scoil Mhuire and the post office.”

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

The provision of a set down area and disabled parking space at the Post Office will be considered in the detailed design of the Navan Town Traffic Scheme.





## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

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

The motion was noted.

### **7 Correspondence**

- 7.1 Correspondence received from An Taisce in response to the notice of item 7.6 – Notice of Motion as adopted at February monthly meeting re funding to upgrade the Ramparts towpath from Spicers to Stackallen Bridge.

The correspondence was noted.

### **8 Any Other Business**

- 8.1 Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons raised the following issues:

8.1.1 The need for a ramp or other measures to deal with the narrow footpath and reduced visibility for pedestrians at the Unity Centre, Dunloe Park, Windtown – it was agreed to check this.

8.1.2 The need to ensure wheelchair accessibility outside the Council offices on Railway Street – it was confirmed that this was in the current work programme.

- 8.2 Councillor Jim Holloway raised the following issue:

8.2.1 The Japanese knotweed at the entrance to Clady Meadows, Robinstown and the recent coverage of how this issue is being dealt with in Offaly.

- 8.3 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issue:

8.3.1 The possibility of cutting the grass in the Old Athlumney graveyard.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**An Meára**