



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 22nd July 2015, Navan Civic Offices

An Meára, **Councillor Joe Reilly**, presided.

Councillors Present: Sinéad Burke, Shane Cassells, Francis Deane, Wayne Forde, Jim Holloway.

Apologies: Councillor Tommy Reilly

Officials in Attendance:

Senior Executive Officer: Larry Whelan

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Executive Engineer: Fiona Beers

Executive Engineer: Ronan McEnroe

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Annual Meeting held on 17th June, 2015.

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 17th June 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 17th June, 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17th June 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Joe Holloway referred to Item 9.5.1 – Leighsbridge Estate and the requirement to establish management companies in private housing estates – it was confirmed that this was



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no longer a requirement and the Mayor invited Councillor Holloway to submit a Notice of Question on this matter to obtain further information.

Councillor Joe Reilly also referred to Item 9.5.1 and the update on the completion of works in Leighsbridge Estate – Councillor Shane Cassells confirmed that he had since received information on this matter.

Councillor Sinéad Burke requested an update on the court case that was impacting the taking in charge of Ferndale – it was agreed to refer this to Planning.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The Carty family on the death of Lorna Carty in Tunisia.

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

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Jim Holloway**.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Corporate Services

5.1.1 To receive an update on the Municipal District Members Discretionary Fund.

A report was circulated at the meeting, indicating the allocations made to date by Navan Municipal District Councillors. Councillors were reminded that applications should be submitted no later than 30th September, otherwise allocations would be deferred to 2016.

5.2 Transportation

5.2.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Navan



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Municipal District.

The report had been circulated in advance.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The need to undertake maintenance checks of equipment in playgrounds, for example the equipment is out of order in the playground at Boreen Keel – it was confirmed that contact had been made with the supplier and these should be replaced within 3 weeks.
- The reduced visibility at junctions where grass had become overgrown – Councillors were requested to submit information on these locations.
- The damaged railing and weeds on the new grass at Athlumney.
- The graffiti on the ‘Welcome to Navan’ signs on the Slane and Windtown roads.
- The need for a comprehensive traffic management system to deal with issues arising from the bridge closure – it was confirmed that the traffic lights had been adjusted, the additional signage was to be installed and that the situation would be monitored.
- The costings for works on the new bridge – it was agreed to refer this query to Transportation.

Councillors complimented Meath County Council and the Gateway staff on the works undertaken in Navan Municipal District, including on Flower Hill and on the Fairgreen.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“In relation to the temporary closure on the R153 Kentstown Road, what traffic management plans are in place to include Navan, Casey's Cross, Old Johnstown Village



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on L5050 and is there a possibility of restricting HGVs driving through Johnstown Village as well as temporarily reducing the speed limit to 30 km per hour?"

Response:

A copy of the current traffic diversion plan for the temporary closure of the R153 Kentstown Road at New Bridge in Navan is attached.

Meath County Council has requested a detailed traffic signage proposal from the contractor involved so that proposed signage and locations can be reviewed / agreed on site between the contractor and Meath County Council staff prior to the road closure.

Advanced notification VMS signs are due to be installed a week before the proposed closure to advise motorists of the upcoming closure of the bridge to vehicular traffic.

With regard to the 30 km/h temporary speed limit and HGV restrictions requested to Johnstown Village – Meath County Council notes that neither of the two sign posted diversion routes direct traffic through Johnstown Village and does not consider these restrictions to be appropriate in relation to the proposed works.

The response was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

"Can the executive confirm when a park ranger will be appointed to Blackwater Park?"

Response:

Since the opening of Blackwater Park, the Council have had a very significant presence in the park, particularly by staff from the Municipal District carrying out management and maintenance functions as well as Litter and Dog Wardens carrying out monitoring and enforcement duties in their respective areas. However there is no provision in the current budget for a full time park ranger.

It is suggested that the appointment of a park ranger is a matter that can be given further consideration as part of the budget preparations for 2016 and subject to the



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consent of the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government who must give approval to the creation of any new or additional posts.

The response was noted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells

“Given the fact that we are now entering the budgetary review process and in light of the information provided to us by the Department of the Environment at our Housing Meeting, can the Executive please update us on what steps are being taken to progress an application to the Department for the construction of council housing on the 26 acres of lands at Ferganstown?”

Response:

At present, Meath County Council is not in a position to progress a housing proposal on lands at Ferganstown to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. The necessary access infrastructure pertaining to the site will need to be advanced in the first instance, to allow the site to be developed for social housing and other uses. Discussions have taken place with relevant parties to address this issue, and further liaison will take place with a view to progressing the matter.

The response was noted.

Councillor Shane Cassells sought clarification on the timeframe for the provision of the necessary access infrastructure, as referred to in the response.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway

“What is the current situation in relation to the taking in charge of Ferndale, Blackwater Abbey and Blackwater Drive?”

Response:

Please find the current position in respect of the estates below:

Blackwater Abbey Estate and Ferndale Estate Navan



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Meath County Council received a valid residents request to have these developments taken in charge and have carried out inspections of both and a snag list of remedial works has been forwarded to the Developers. The Council has now put forward these two housing estates to be included under sample study of CCTV and leak detection surveys to be undertaken by Irish Water. The outcome of this survey will determine the next course of action in the taking in charge process.

Blackwater Drive Estate Navan

Meath County Council has received a valid residents request to have Blackwater Drive estate taken in charge and has carried out an inspection and a snag list of remedial works has been forwarded to the Developer , The Council currently hold a Cash Deposit of €8,888.17 remaining to complete this development. The value of outstanding works would exceed this amount as there is an area of road to be completed and outstanding works re gullies, footpaths and fire hydrants. In the absence of a positive response from the developer, the Council may have no option but to consider taking this estate in charge and then to apply the security held to the most urgent element of the estate works. The Council will contact the developer again and seek to move this process forward.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

"I call on the executive to postpone plans and any further stages of the proposed development of the bus hub for Kennedy Road in Navan, until a full public consultation process on this matter has been undertaken."

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

Councillors will recall that the Planning Department delivered a presentation at the November 2014 meeting, which outlined the background to the project, the NTA objectives, the design principles for the Navan Bus Hub/Interchange, the potential facilities to be provided, the options and recommendations contained in the NTA/MCC report of October 2014, the next steps and the timeline for the Part VIII process. At that



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*meeting the Navan Municipal District Councillors were asked to formally endorse the advancement of the preparation of the Part VIII application to develop the bus hub/interchange at Kennedy Road, inclusive of the Traffic Management Plan to underpin same. **This was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Shane Cassells and seconded by Councillor Jim Holloway.***

Following on from the above vote of support by the members of Navan MD, contract documents were prepared for the Navan Traffic Management and Bus Hub Design. The NTA provided an allocation of €250,000 to fund the Navan Traffic Management and Bus Hub Design study in 2015 containing the following 3 elements: a) Navan Public Realm Study (funded by Meath County Council), b) Design of the Bus Hub, c) Design of Traffic Management measures required to facilitate the Bus Hub. Following a public procurement process CSEA and Brady Shipman Martin have been appointed to undertake this study.

*Councillors should note that the study now being undertaken includes a requirement to carry out statutory and non-statutory stakeholder and public consultation. For example, the Consultant must undertake a **non-statutory public consultation process** in relation to the identification of a Preferred Option. The purpose of the Preferred Option Public Consultation shall be to clearly communicate the details of the Preferred Option and to elicit feedback on any issues or concerns arising in relation it. Relevant feedback can then be taken account of in the final version of the “Feasibility Study and Options Assessment Report” as required.*

This Preferred Option non-statutory public consultation shall include:

- Public displays;*
- Presentations to officials and elected members of Meath County Council;*
- The production of an information brochure summarising the details of the Preferred Option and salient points from the draft “Feasibility Study and Options Assessment Report”;*
- Presentations to business representative organisations*

At the end of the Preferred Option non-statutory public consultation, the Consultant shall prepare a report summarising the public consultation process and listing all



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submissions received during the public consultation process. In addition, the Consultant shall prepare appropriate responses to the submissions made.

Any subsequent Part VIII process would have to be undertaken in accordance with current planning legislation before the preferred option could be implemented.

The Council acknowledges that Councillors have already gone to considerable efforts, in conjunction with the NTA and the Executive, to consider this matter and find a way forward to study in more detail the impacts of this proposal. It is also accepted that Councillors still may have reservations about certain aspects of the project and that further study is required to more precisely quantify these. The current process will examine these and provide the necessary detail and information required to make an informed decision about the siting of the Bus Interchange and the associated traffic management implications.

In view of the above, rather than postpone plans for the further development of the proposal, Councillors are respectfully urged to continue to support the current process and encourage the public and stakeholders to engage in the consultation process within the ambit of the current study.

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

A discussion followed on the suitability of the proposed location of the bus hub, the planned statutory and non-statutory public consultation, the role of Councillors in assessing the information when gathered and taking a decision on how this will be progressed, the NTA funding available, and the overall view to be taken of traffic management.

A show of hands on the motion resulted in one in favour and three against with two abstentions.

The motion was defeated.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly

“As the junction of Kennedy/Abbey Road continues to be problematic for vehicle users, Post Office customers and pedestrians alike, I call on Navan Municipal District to carry

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out a safety audit which includes the feasibility of a pedestrian crossing at the Post Office.”

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

The Navan Bus Hub & Traffic Management Study is currently ongoing. It is likely that the implementation of the bus hub and associated amendments to current traffic arrangements will impact the junction at the Post Office. The consultant for the scheme can be provided with the pedestrian movement study previously carried out in order that the findings can be considered in the design.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Joe Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

The motion was adopted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“That Navan Municipal District cooperates with residents of Beech Drive, Johnstown Wood to agree on a solution to address the issue of pedestrian access to St. Stephen’s School as the residents are in favour of installing a turnstile and are willing to supervise it.”

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

The planning permission granted for Johnstown Wood included a condition to provide a pedestrian link between Beech Drive and the proposed Millbrook development. The reason for this was in the interest of orderly development, proper planning and development of the area, and to minimise car based transport. Meath County Council recognises that significant time has elapsed since Johnstown Wood was constructed, and that residents now have reservations about the opening up of the pedestrian link. However, Meath County Council considers that the inclusion of a turnstile would be impractical from both usage and management points of view. The link should provide full access for cyclists, prams and disabled users, and should be available at all times to prevent any user having to double back.



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The motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

A discussion followed on the issues with regard to access to the school, the options to resolve the issues, and the willingness of the residents to engage with the council.

The motion was adopted.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“That Navan Municipal District considers the feasibility of erecting a fence on the boundary between Athlumney Village and Athlumney Wood following on from issues with anti social behaviour and health and safety concerns.”

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

The feasibility of erecting a fence between Athlumney Village and Athlumney Wood can be considered, but it should be noted that the erection of a fence would not be in line with the Johnstown Quarter Smarter Travel Network Proposed Cycle Network, which would provide permeability around this area.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

Councillor Francis Deane requested that a feasibility report be prepared and presented in September.

The motion was adopted.

7.5 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

"I call on my fellow Councillors to fully support my motion of opposition to Eirgrid's plans for the construction of pylons across Navan Municipal District, including Bohermeen, Boyerstown, Dunderry, Robinstown, Bective, Kilmessan and Kiltale."



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

The motion was adopted.

7.6 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells

“Following on from the successful completion of Phase 1 of the park that the members of the Municipal Area and the Executive would commit to the implementation of a number of operational matters in order to maintain the investment made and enhance the experience of visitors. Namely:

- 1) The establishment of a park ranger who would have responsibility for day to day matters in the park, ensuring people have a point of contact in the park and the opening and closing of gates on a daily basis to ensure security of the park and adjoining residential areas.
- 2) Given the fact that we now have playground facilities in place for young children that toilet and baby changing facilities be put in place
- 3) That disabled bays be marked in the car park.”

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

- 1) *Since the opening of Blackwater Park, the Council have had a very significant presence in the park, particularly by staff from the Municipal District carrying out management and maintenance functions as well as Litter and Dog Wardens carrying out monitoring and enforcement duties in their respective areas. However there is no provision in the current budget for a full time park ranger.*

It is suggested that the appointment of a park ranger is a matter that can be given further consideration as part of the budget preparations for 2016 and subject to the consent of the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government who must give approval to the creation of any new or additional posts.

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- 2) *The provision of further services in Blackwater Park will be considered, in the context of the ongoing development of the amenity.*
- 3) *The disabled bays in the Blackwater Park car park will be marked with road markings.*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

A short discussion followed on the need to maintain the investment made, to provide security and a point of contact, the need for adequate facilities, the need for dog bins and a dedicated dog walking areas, the need for playground equipment for younger children, and the need for signage with information on who to contact in case of emergency or damage. It was agreed that a costing should be prepared for the provision of toilet facilities in advance of budget preparation.

The motion was adopted.

7.7 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells

“Following on from a request at the start of the year for remedial works to be carried out on the Trim Road that the engineering staff once again look at this stretch of road with a view to carrying out improvements especially around the manhole covers which have all sunken along this stretch of road.”

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

A total of 430m of one lane on the R161 Trim Road at Balreask will be restored under this year’s Schedule of Municipal District Works. Further sections can be considered for next year’s Schedule of Municipal District Works.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

The motion was adopted.

7.8 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway



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“That a pedestrian crossing will be provided on Carriage Road, adjacent to Connolly Avenue.”

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

We will carry out a survey first to determine which type of crossing is best suited to the junction. We will then seek the necessary funding from the NTA to carry out the works.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Jim Holloway** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**.

The motion was adopted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Councillor Jim Holloway raised the following issues:

9.1.1 Welcomed additional funding for regional and local roads.

9.1.2 The need to repair loose manhole covers, for example at Springfield Glen.

9.1.3 The timeframe for the provision of SIRO, the new brand launched by the ESB and Vodafone to provide high speed broadband in towns including Navan, launched in May.

9.2 Councillor Wayne Forde raised the following issues:

9.2.1 The process for leasing the kiosk at Kennedy Road – Councillor Forde was requested to submit the contact details of anyone interested to Customer Service.



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- 9.2.2 The ownership of the Ramparts footbridge.
- 9.2.3 That Meath County Council would cut the grass at the front of Reask on the Commons Road as the residents were no longer in a position to do this.
- 9.3 Councillor Sinéad Burke raised the following issue:
 - 9.3.1 The need to provide Councillors with direct lines to both Navan Civic Offices and County Hall and the difficulties being experienced in making contact with staff members.
- 9.4 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issues:
 - 9.4.1 Signage at St. Mary's Park.
 - 9.4.2 The outstanding payment of some cash prizes awarded at last October's Pride of Place– it was agreed to refer this to the Community Department.
 - 9.4.3 Request to issue a form for the Amenity Grants/Lawnmower Grants Scheme to Brú na Bóinne, Johnstown – it was agreed to refer this to the Community Department.
- 9.5 Councillor Shane Cassells raised the following issues:
 - 9.5.1 Requested that Meath County Council make a representation to UPC regarding the provision of a high speed broadband connection in Athlumney.
 - 9.5.2 The need to secure the stonework at the Province 5 statue.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára