



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

11:30a.m., 23rd September, Navan Civic Offices

An Leas-Mheára, **Councillor Wayne Forde**, presided.

Councillors Present: Sinéad Burke, Shane Cassells, Francis Deane, Jim Holloway, Tommy Reilly.

Apologies: Councillor Joe Reilly

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Kevin Stewart

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 Ordinary Meeting held on 22nd July 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 22nd July 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Meeting held on 4th September 2015.

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 4th September 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.



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3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

The recent visit of the Canadian Ambassador to Ireland, Mr. Kevin Vickers, to Navan was acknowledged and specifically his attendance at Solstice for the concert of the Canadian Male Voice Choir, which included performances by the Navan Male Voice Choir and Tara Ladies Choir.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Corporate Services

- 4.1.1 To consider and, if thought fit, to recommend to Meath County Council the making of the Polling Scheme in accordance with the Draft and subject to such amendments as are considered necessary. The Scheme, if adopted, will come into operation on 15th February 2016.

A presentation was delivered by Olive Falsey, Administrative Officer and Sheila Sheridan, Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke** to recommend to Meath County Council the making of the Polling Scheme in accordance with the Draft.

- 4.1.2 To receive a presentation on the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015.

A presentation on the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 was delivered by Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.

4.2 Transportation

- 4.2.1 To receive a progress report on works undertaken/planned for Navan Municipal District.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The appearance of ragwort in Blackwater Park;



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- The timescale for the bollards to become operational in Blackwater Park;
- Problems with mature trees in estates, for example blocking public lighting and roots damaging footpaths, including in Kilcarn Court, Ferndale and Silverlawns – it was confirmed that the tender for the arborologist had not yet been received.

4.2.2 To receive a Feasibility Report on Fencing at Athlumney Village, Navan.

The report was noted.

4.3 Environment

4.3.1 To receive an update on Casual Trading.

The review of the current Casual Trading Bye for the County have been the subject of consideration and discussion at Council level and with various other parties in recent months. While such considerations have identified a need to address a number of anomalies associated with the current Bye Laws there are a number of developments at National level which dictates a wait and see approach.

In particular the Environment Department have been in contact with the Department of Justice, Enterprise and Innovation (DJEI) who have advised that a Casual Trading Bill is at an advanced stage of preparation and which is required inter alia to ensure that the provisions of an EU Services Directive are being complied with by Member States and including provisions for online payment facilities for applicants for such licences, a facility which is currently not available within most local authorities.

Meath County are one of a number of local authorities working with the Local Government Management Association in the development of a National online licensing system which facilitates business related applications including Casual Trading and a tender for provide /host such a system was recently awarded to An Post.



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Some items that would have to be referred to in any Bye-Laws drafted may be part of the National online licensing system. Items such as the calculation of any fee and whether there will be a standard set national fee, whether the national system will be requesting and holding all the information on the stall holder (which is significant and as required under Article 22 of the Services Directive), and whether there will be a standard generation of allocations of the stalls from application.

The Environment Department before proceeding to review the current bye-laws have raised a number of queries with the DJEI and particularly in respect of timescales associated with the Casual Trading Bill and the online licensing system as we want to avoid a situation where having gone through the extensive review process have then to repeat the process to take account of changes brought about in the new legislation.

The report was noted. Councillors expressed their dissatisfaction at the Christmas Market on Kennedy Road in 2014 and it was agreed that a report on plans for the 2015 Christmas Market would be brought to the October meeting.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway

"In cases where it has been a condition of the grant of planning permission for a housing estate of part of such that a management company be put in place and where it follows that the estate or part of this estate that cannot be described as an apartment complex or gated community is there a responsibility on the part of the Local Authority to ensure that roads footpaths and other services are maintained in the long term as is the case where an estate is taken in charge?"

Response:

An obligation rests with a developer to build an estate in compliance with relevant standards and the plans and particulars submitted to the planning authority. This obligation exists regardless of whether the estate is to be maintained by a management company or taken in charge by the local authority.



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The Council will release ANY security / bond held when it is satisfied that the estate works are complete. In circumstance where the estate is to be taken in charge, the Council then assumes the responsibility for ongoing maintenance of the estate infrastructure.

However where a management company is in place and the Council returns the security held, then that entity assumes the responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the estate. The Council has no function or obligation to maintain roads footpaths or common areas in such circumstances. This is similar to the approach taken by the Council to gated developments.

The response was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“With reference to the proposed new bus stop at Newgate Cross, Kells Road, on the 109 bus route from Navan to Kells, could I please ask if any progress has been made in relation to the discussions which have taken place between Bus Éireann, the NTA and the Transportation Section of Meath County Council?”

Response:

At the last meeting Meath County Council had with the National Transport Authority, the Council was informed that there will be no funding for new bus stops in 2015.

This bus stop can be looked at again in 2016.

The response was noted and Councillor Francis Deane acknowledged that the Transportation Section had since confirmed that this location was a priority, that the NTA had been on site and an area had been identified for a stop but that funding was needed.

5.3 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can the Executive explore the possibility of setting up a youth club in the Johnstown area of Navan?”



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Response:

The request to explore the establishment of a youth club in the Johnstown area of Navan has been referred to Youth Work Ireland (Meath), who has a remit in developing services and supports with and for young people within the County, including developing and supporting youth clubs in conjunction with the local community.

The response was noted. In response to Councillor Wayne Forde's query, Kevin Stewart confirmed that whilst Meath County Council would assist Youth Work Ireland in so far as possible, that the provision of a youth club was not within the remit of the Council and there was no capital funding available for the purchase of a premises.

5.4 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells

"Can I ask the Executive what steps have been taken in preparing a report to access funding under the European urban regeneration fund for the development of the old St Patrick's School as a building of civic use for the people of Navan and Meath?"

Response:

The Regional Operational Programme for 2014-2020 was approved by the European Commission in December 2014. There were five priorities in this programme and the only priority that a County Museum (and Tourism facility) would align with, is the Sustainable Urban Regeneration priority. While the Southern and Eastern Assembly wanted to allow County Towns access funding, the European Commission refused this request and insisted that funding would only be made available to the "Gateway and Hub" towns identified in the National Spatial Strategy for Ireland 2002 – 2020".

As Navan (or any Meath town) was not identified as a "Gateway or Hub" town under the National Spatial Strategy, a funding request for a County Museum (and Tourist facility) under this programme will not be considered.

Meath County Council are currently exploring other funding options from the European Union that could be utilised for projects in Navan and other towns in Meath.

The response was noted.



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6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

“That the Council will look at erecting a sign at the top of the Graigs Lane to signify where this locality is. There is currently a sign at the Slane Road end, but none at the other end in Kilberry.”

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

Townland names are not generally signposted. The Traffic Signs Manual provides for the identification of local roads by Local Road Direction Signs and Local Road Name Plates, which are white signs that display the local road number in black text.

There is currently a Local Road Direction Sign on the N51 Slane Road indicating the L74163 (Graig’s Lane) but there are no Local Road Name Plates at the other end of this road, at the junction with the L74162 (the road linking the R162 Kilberry to Navan road with the R163 Kilberry to Slane road). The installation of Local Road Name Plates on the L74163 at this junction would provide identification of the road.

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

It was confirmed that whilst applications can be submitted to erect signage, the Council must comply with the standards contained in the Traffic Signs Manual (2010) and generally, additional signage would not be permitted on local or regional roads.

The motion was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“In an effort to create a positive shopping experience in our county town and to encourage consumers to continue their support of Navan retailers, I call on Navan Municipal District to introduce a 15 minute grace system for those who park while conducting their business in Navan.”

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

The proposed initiative is likely to present challenges in relation to ongoing regulation of parking in the town. It is considered that a full appraisal of the proposed initiative would need to be carried out to determine the impact of the proposal on parking demand & occupancy rates etc prior to any such initiative being implemented. It is our intention to carry out a baseline study & we propose to revert to members in the coming months.

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

A discussion followed on the approaches adopted in Trim and Kells, the pragmatic approach already being adopted in Navan, the goodwill created by the formal approach of a 15 minute grace period, the difficulties in implementing such a system in a town the size of Navan and the need for additional car parking spaces. It was agreed that the report into the trial period in Kells, including its implications, would be assessed and a further report would be brought to Councillors when available.

The motion was noted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“That Meath County Council will cooperate with Navan late opening fast food outlets to keep the town free of litter. Many owners of the takeaways are very keen to work with the Council to address the serious issue of keeping the streets litter free.”

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

Take-away / fast food outlets are a source of litter pollution and where such litter defaces our footpaths, streets, parks and waterways and often stifling community efforts of Tidy Towns and other such groups who work diligently to ensure a clean and natural environment in their area.

While the vast majority of our citizens are actively committed to the prevention and eradication of litter from our community the actions of a small few, and particularly at weekends often generate very negative impressions of our larger towns and place a



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significant fiscal burden on Council finances and resources in street sweeping , emptying litter bins etc.

As the Members will be aware a draft Litter Management Plan for County Meath for 2015-2017 was recently on public display as part of the statutory consultation process and this contains a series of objectives and targets, one of which involves working closely with business proprietors in tackling litter. The Council welcome the willingness of the owners of fast food premises in Navan to collaborate in tackling the perennial problem which is litter.

Such collaboration which will be driven by the Councils Education and Awareness Officers and focus on the responsibilities of such proprietors in keeping the areas around their premises litter free and it is hoped to replicate recent successes achieved with business owners in Ashbourne in this regard in other large towns including Navan.

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

The motion was adopted.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can I call on my fellow Councillors to fully support my motion of constructing a footpath which is missing on the left hand side of the road approaching Robinstown village from Trim, for public safety and for children going to school and pedestrians going into Robinstown Village.”

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

The installation of 70m of footpath at this location would link two houses to the school and village, and would cost in the region of €17,500. These works are not included in this year’s Schedule of Municipal District Works. Future programmes of works will be based on the prioritisation of schemes following an engineering screening/evaluation assessment.

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



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The motion was adopted.

6.5 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can I call on my fellow Councillors to fully support my motion for the construction of a footpath from Dunderry village on either side of the road out to the graveyard.”

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

220m of footpath would be required at this location to link the graveyard and the village, and would cost in the region of €55,000. These works are not included in this year’s Schedule of Municipal District Works. Future programmes of works will be based on the prioritisation of schemes following an engineering screening/evaluation assessment.

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

The motion was adopted.

6.6 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly

“The residents of the refurbished flats are delighted with their new homes. Unfortunately there were no sheds constructed to hold tools, implements etc unsuitable for storing in the home. This was a mistake. I call on Meath County Council to provide proper sheds as a storage area to the homes.”

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

€670,000 was expended on the St Brigid’s Villas capital project, with the delivery of five new social housing units. As there were no built sheds with the original scheme, same were not included in the contract. There are no plans to provide built sheds, nor, as the scheme is now completed, funding to provide such additions at this stage. However, the tenants are free to provide their own garden sheds if they wish to do so at any stage for storage purposes.

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The motion was deferred.

6.7 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly

“That the executive discuss with MLSP and Claremont Stadium the possibility of relocating to Páirc Uisce Dhuibhe/Blackwater Park the specially constructed exercise equipment for older people in Claremont Stadium. The relocation would enhance the park, allow greater access to the equipment and allow older people moderate exercise in a suitable environment.”

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

An application for funding has been submitted to the Sports Capital Programme 2015 for the provision of outdoor physical exercise equipment for older persons in Blackwater Park, and we currently await an announcement of funding under this scheme. It is hoped that new equipment will be provided through this funding stream, as outlined above, so as to ensure that the Park is inclusive for all ages.

The motion was deferred.

6.8 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

“That the executive consider making the playground in Blackwater Park more accessible to wheelchair using children by:

- A. Ensuring safe passage through the front gates for minibuses carrying disabled children
- B. Moving the swing suitable for wheelchair users from Andy Brennan Park (where it receives little use) to the playground in Blackwater Park.”

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



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Accessibility issues and usage by people with a disability, including wheelchair using children of Blackwater Park will be considered in order to maximise the use and enjoyment of the amenity by all citizens.

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

A short discussion followed on the issues being experienced by disability groups currently trying to access the park and the appropriate equipment for use in the park. It was confirmed that these requests would be positively received.

The motion was adopted.

6.9 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells

“That Navan Municipal District petition the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht as well as the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Transport seeking immediate emergency funding across all three of their departments in order to carry out the necessary works to repair Old Kilcarn Bridge before any further deterioration in its condition occurs.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**.

A discussion followed on the significance of the bridge to the town and people of Navan as an important piece of heritage, an iconic image, a pedestrian walkway, an access link to Johnstown and a carrier of utility and telecommunication infrastructure. It was agreed that this motion would be submitted to the October meeting of Meath County Council.

The motion was adopted.

6.10 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells

“That Navan Municipal District pass a vote of congratulations with Navan & District Historical Society for their guided tours of Athlumney Castle, cemetery, church and surrounding areas during National Heritage Week and that a formal request be made to



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the OPW for regular tours during the summer months of the Castle in line with other such monuments throughout the country.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**.

The access to the castle facilitated by Navan & District Historical Society during Heritage Week was acknowledged by Councillors, as was the significance of Athlumney Castle to local people and visitors.

The motion was adopted.

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Correspondence received from An Bord Pleanála in response to Notice of Item 6.5 – Notice of Motion as adopted at July monthly meeting.

The correspondence was noted.

- 7.2 Correspondence received from Iarnród Éireann in response to Notice of Item 7.3 – Notice of Motion as adopted at June monthly meeting.

The correspondence was noted.

8 Any Other Business

- 8.1 Councillor Wayne Forde raised the following issues:

8.1.1 Outlined his strong opposition to the location of the proposed bus hub at Kennedy Road.

8.1.2 The cars emerging straight from Oakleigh onto Swan Lane – it was confirmed that a response to this had already issued indicating that signage must comply with the Traffic Signs Manual in terms of type and location and that Oakleigh was a private estate so no signage could be erected within the estate.



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8.2 Councillor Shane Cassells raised the following issues:

8.2.1 The outstanding works at Leighsbridge Estate – it was agreed to refer this to Planning.

8.2.2 The retaining wall between two houses in Woodlands estate that is in danger of collapsing onto the footpath – it was agreed to provide the details to Ronan McEnroe.

8.2.3 The need to clear the vegetation at the spa on Academy Street.

8.3 Councillor Jim Holloway raised the following issues:

8.3.1 The need to restore the ramp in Cill Foireann estate.

8.3.2 The vegetation growing through the palisade fence between the rail line and Glenveigh estate – it was confirmed that contact had been made with Iarnróid Éireann but nothing had yet been done.

8.4 Councillor Sinéad Burke raised the following issue:

8.4.1 The delay in getting permission from the NRA to erect Neighbourhood Watch signs – it was confirmed that a letter would issue to the NRA and that residents should supply the poles and the Council would erect the signs.

8.5 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issues:

8.5.1 The need to erect signage on the approach to Navan from Kentstown, before the traffic lights, indicating the height restriction at Athlumney bridge and alternative route following a recent incident.

8.5.2 Road markings needed at Farganstown at the entrance to the water services depot on the Beuparc side.

8.5.3 Anti-social behaviour in derelict houses in Abbeylands and Blackcastle.



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This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára