



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 21st September 2016, Navan Civic Offices

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

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

Apologies: Councillor Joe Reilly

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Kevin Stewart

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Noel Finnegan

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Apologies: Fiona Beers, Senior Executive Engineer

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 27th July, 2016.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 27th July 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Jim Holloway wished to note that the information provided in respect of Item 8.3 – Notice of Motion on the July agenda was incorrect, based on the information provided for Item 7.1 – Notice of Question on today’s agenda – this was noted.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:



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- The family of the late Bill Briscoe, formerly of the Round O.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Navan Historical Society on the success of their Pop Up Museum.

4 To receive an update from Geoffrey Clarke, An Taisce on a number of projects including the Boyne Greenway and Boyne Navigation.

Geoffrey Clarke, An Taisce attended the meeting and outlined the background to and plans for two projects – the Boyne Canal Restoration and Boyne Greenway.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Responsibility for damaged milestone markers – it was requested that this type of damage be reported to An Taisce, with photographs, and the IWAI crew would be asked to repair it when on site.
- The condition of the bridge at Athlumney Hill – the history of this ‘bridge’ was outlined and it was confirmed that it was structurally sound but that it would be preferable if the issues relating to drainage and surfacing could be addressed.
- The potential for a floating barge/restaurant on the canal – it was pointed out that access to the canal would be an issue, as would the need for sufficiently deep water that would require the canal to be dredged and the need to avoid impacting on the navigation. It was also suggested that a location close to Slane bridge might be preferable as it is wider and benefits from car parking.
- The footpath at the Ramparts – it was confirmed that the role of An Taisce is to ensure that footways are clear of trees, etc. It was also pointed out that the Council, An Taisce, IWAI and Slane Community Forum had recently submitted a joint draft plan to Fáilte Ireland in respect of the Boyne Navigation, which ties the navigation with the Greenway and which would require major funding.
- The wooded area at the Ramparts – it was pointed out that this was in private ownership and that the role of An Taisce only applies to clearing trees from the river.



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The Mayor and Councillors thanked Geoffrey for his presentation and for An Taisce's work on these projects.

5 Disposal of land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

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

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

6 Statutory Business

6.1 Community

6.1.1 To consider applications under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community Department attended the meeting and outlined the key elements of the scheme, including the funding available, the timeframe that applies, eligibility and the projects being proposed for Navan Municipal District.

Following a discussion on the list of proposed projects, it was unanimously agreed to apply for funding in 2016 for the footpath in Dunderry with the footpath upgrade in Bohermeen identified as a Priority 2 project.

Corporate Services

6.1.2 To receive a report on the proposed Protocol for Twinning Arrangements.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services delivered a presentation, which outlined the key elements of the proposed Protocol, which was noted.

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



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

Councillors were reminded of the deadlines that apply to applications for internal and external allocations and the relevant terms of the Protocol.

6.2 Economic Development

6.2.1 To receive a report on EU Funding Opportunities.

Ciara OhAodha, Economic Development & Enterprise, delivered a presentation on a number of relevant EU funding programmes and the current status of applications made. The approach to be followed was outlined, as were the challenges and requirements.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The impact of Brexit in terms of UK partners – it was pointed out that there was still considerable uncertainty on this issue.
- The information available on successful projects – it was agreed to circulate any available information but it was pointed out that any new applications would need to demonstrate innovation and be different from previous projects.
- The possibility of securing EU funding for the provision of a community facility in Johnstown – it was confirmed that this type of proposal would not be suitable for an application under the available EU funding programmes.
- The funding available for established town twinning arrangements – it was confirmed that the Network of Town strand would be applicable for established twinning arrangements but that 50% match funding would be required.

6.3 Transportation

6.3.1 To receive an update on the proposed Housing Estate Special Speed Limit Bye-



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Law statutory process.

Paul Phelan, Executive Engineer, Transportation Department, confirmed that the draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limit) (Housing Estates) County of Meath Bye-Laws (No. 1) 2016 had been on public display from 05th July to 05th August and no objections had been received in relation to the proposed document. It was now proposed that the draft Bye-Law be submitted to the full council meeting in October for formal ratification.

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

- 6.3.2 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:

- Timeframe for completion of works in Blackwater Park – it was confirmed that works are proposed to commence on 4th October and it is hoped that they will take a maximum period of three weeks, during which time the playground will be closed.
- Requested that the yellow box be reinstated outside Beechmount Estate – it was confirmed that this yellow box is included in the list of works to be completed by the surfacing contractor and should be reinstated in the next few weeks.
- Junction at exit from St. Paul's to facilitate crossing of students from that side to Silverlawns – it was confirmed that a new maintenance programme would soon be in place to look at traffic light junctions throughout Navan. The new maintenance contractor will check on the timings on all lights and 6 and 12 month period reports will be given regarding any issues. There is currently no funding available to upgrade all junctions but it is hoped to prioritise junctions where problems exist and apply for funding to get them upgraded on a phased basis.



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7 Notice of Question

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway

“In respect of the Taking in Charge process within the Navan Municipal District, this request seeks the following information:

- the names of estates that have been taken in charge,
- the names and status of those that have as yet not been taken in charge.”

Response:

Please see attached worksheet containing information on the taking in charge status of housing estates in Navan Municipal District.

- 1. Private estates that have been taken in charge by Meath County Council.*
- 2. Private estates not yet taken in charge by Meath County Council*
- 3. Meath County Council estates which by default are in the charge of Meath County Council*

This is the information available to the planning authority at 31st August 2016 and should not be relied on as certification of the status of all housing estates and streets in County Meath. The Council are actively working to compile a complete list of all estates, roads and streets in its charge.

The response was noted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“What would be the cost to the Navan Municipal District to facilitate the introduction of one hour of free parking to be given to consumers for every paid hour from noon until 6pm on Saturdays? Saturday afternoons have become dead in the town of Navan and a one hour paid/one hour free parking arrangement could encourage people to shop in comfort and linger while conducting their business in the town. There is also a growing



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concern that shoppers will head north of the border at weekends so we must be prepared and try to prevent this trend in the run up to Christmas. Make Saturday afternoons in Navan a shop friendly afternoon!"

Response:

It is estimated that the cost of the proposal, as outlined, would be in the region of €1,000 /day (or €50,000 in a full year).

It is considered that in the town centre, (in particular Kennedy Plaza, Trimgate Street, Abbey Road and Watergate Street), it can be very difficult to find car parking spaces. Traffic Surveys undertaken in May 2014 in Kennedy Plaza indicate between 75 – 100 cars per hour entering the plaza on average over 3 Saturday afternoons looking for car parking spaces. A further occupancy survey carried out in Abbey Road in October 2015 indicated occupancy rates of 72% on a Saturday afternoon (2 – 5 pm).

The proposed initiative would inevitably lead to a decrease in turnover of spaces making it more difficult for customers to find parking.

It is considered that parking charges bear little relationship to peoples decision to travel to alternative locations, as there is a far greater cost in terms of fuel and time, but that the decision is largely made due to retail mix/shopping experience or savings that can be made at alternative locations, e.g. the cost of travel (in terms of fuel costs alone) to Blanchardstown is €13, Newry €23 or Dundrum €20, which far outweigh any savings made from parking.

The response was noted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

"Are there any plans by the Executive to seek National or European funding to reopen the leisure centre in Johnstown as a swimming pool and a gym for the public?"

Response:

The Community Section of Meath County Council has no plans to seek funding for the re-opening of the leisure centre in Johnstown as a public facility.



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The response was noted.

8 Notice of Motion

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“That Navan Municipal District name the bridge on the N3 off the R147 as St. Martha's Bridge. This bridge links Navan to Johnstown via Sion Road. The present school campus in Johnstown (Sion) is located on the site of the old St Martha's College, hence the appropriateness of naming it St Martha's Bridge. To have a name on the bridge would prove helpful when giving directions to those travelling to Buvinda House or other locations in Johnstown.”

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

If this motion is adopted, the proposal will be brought to the next meeting of the Protocol Committee and full Council for consideration. Following this, if this proposal is approved, the bridge will be named St. Martha's Bridge.

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

A short discussion followed and it was agreed that any future proposals for the naming of bridges, roundabouts, etc would be listed as an item on the Agenda for discussion and agreement.

The motion was adopted.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“That Meath County Council transforms the children's playground area at Claremont into a community garden. The playground in question has been closed for the past ten years due to health and safety issues. As it stands it attracts anti-social behaviour. The residents of the surrounding area have expressed their commitment to coming on board and maintaining the common areas. A survey of the residents confirmed that locals are in favour of removing the playground equipment which is not fit for purpose.”



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

The playground in Claremont has been closed for a number of years following damage caused due to vandalism. The cost of repairing the playground at the time was deemed to be outside the available budget. In redeveloping the site, there will be considerable cost involved in the dismantling and disposing of the play equipment, surfacing and fencing together with preparation of the ground for any alternative uses. There will also be ongoing costs associated with the landscaping of the area both financial and human resource together with ongoing maintenance which should be considered.

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

The motion was adopted.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

"I call on the Executive to support my motion for the erection of a plaque in St Francis Park cemetery on the old Athboy road in Navan in memory of the late Joe Ward, who worked for Meath County Council for nearly 40 years."

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

Meath County Council is not proposing to place plaques for individual members of staff at any location in the county. However, as part of the upgrade works to the new Corporate Headquarters, Meath County Council will be providing a space at Buvinda House to commemorate and remember our deceased colleagues and their family members.

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

Councillor Forde read out a statement from the Ward family expressing their gratitude and appreciation to all the staff and officials who attended the funeral of Joe Ward.

The motion was noted.



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8.4 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

"I call on the Executive to erect a plaque in the Solstice Arts Centre in Honour and in memory of the late John Crowley, our local actor from Ardraccon."

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

The request to erect a plaque to the actor, John Cowley, in Solstice Arts Centre will be referred to the next board meeting of Solstice for their consideration.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

The motion was adopted.

8.5 Submitted by Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons

"I propose the motion seeking the placement of a pedestrian crossing at the junction of Woodlands and Chadwicks."

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

The request for the installation of a pedestrian crossing on the R161 at the junction of Woodlands and Chadwicks will be added to the list of new works requests, from which a programme of works will be drawn up based on the prioritisation of schemes following an engineering screening/evaluation assessment.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

The motion was adopted.

8.6 Submitted by Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons



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“In the interest of safety, I propose the motion to seek funding for the placement of ramps in Canterbrook Estate, Trim Road.”

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

Canterbrook Estate, Trim Road, Navan is currently on a list of estates to have a 30 km/h speed limit applied by the end of April 2017. Further traffic calming measures may be required, in which case an assessment would be required to determine whether this would be in the form of speed ramps, chicanes, speed tables, etc. There is currently no funding available for additional traffic calming measures, but the estate can be placed on the New Works Register, from which schemes are prioritised when funding becomes available.

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

The motion was adopted.

9 Correspondence

- 9.1 Correspondence received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in response to the Notice of Item 7.4 – Notice of Motion as adopted at the May meeting re greenway from Navan to Wilkinstown.

The correspondence was noted.

10 Any Other Business

- 10.1 Councillor Sinéad Burke raised the following issues:

10.1.1 Beaufort College is undergoing an extension at present and, as a result, the school is finishing at the earlier time of 3:15pm three days a week, which is the same time as Scoil Eanna. This is causing traffic congestion and the Principal of Beaufort College has asked that the Council look at the traffic layout at this location as it is expected that this will continue for next year. The school is trying to liaise with the bus companies to collect students at different times – it



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was agreed to see what movements there are and if anything can be done.

10.2 Councillor Wayne Forde raised the following issues:

- 10.2.1 If the cycle track at the rear of No. 228 Silverlawns could be moved out more behind the park due to privacy issues.
- 10.2.2 The need for an additional bin at the middle of the circuit in Blackwater Park.
- 10.2.3 Closing of the gate in Blackwater Park at night and the activation of the bollards.
- 10.2.4 The closing of alleyways in Ferndale and Silverlawns – it was pointed out that this may not be possible as there are issues with services e.g. Eir, ESB, water and sewerage, right of ways, etc.

10.3 Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons raised the following issues:

- 10.3.1 The need to review the markings at the roundabout at Teagasc.
- 10.3.2 The provision of a yellow box outside O'Growney Terrace to allow residents in and out.
- 10.3.3 The construction of a footbridge from the south of the river over to the Park – it was pointed out that this is an objective which requires funding.

10.4 Councillor Jim Holloway raised the following issues:

- 10.4.1 Since Aylesbury Lodge was taken in charge, a company had been engaged to clamp cars – it was pointed out that Meath County Council did not give permission to any private company to clamp cars in estates which are in charge.
- 10.4.2 Oak Court estate in Dunderry has been taken in charge but has no public lighting.
- 10.4.3 Difficulties at the bottom of Bridge Street with cars turning left and not realising there is a pedestrian crossing there.



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10.4.4 Sought an update from Bus Éireann regarding new routes.

10.5 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issues:

10.5.1 Pruning of hedges and signage at Cannistown graveyard.

10.5.2 Replacement of four trees at the plaque in Blackwater Park.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára