



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

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

### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***10:00 a.m., 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Navan Civic Offices***

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

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

**Apologies:** Councillors Pdraig Fitzsimons and Joe 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 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 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 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2017.**

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** 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***

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.

### **4 To receive a presentation from Community Sports Development Officer, Meath Local Sports Partnership.**

Margo Finnegan, Community Sports Development Officer delivered a presentation to the meeting on the aim and objectives of the project in Navan, activities to date, the focus for the remainder of the year, the challenges and supports required, plans for 2018 and planned outcomes.

The Mayor and Councillors thanked Margo for her presentation and wished her well in her role.

### **5 Statutory Business**

#### **5.1 Transportation**

##### **5.1.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Navan Municipal District.**

The report had been circulated in advance and further updates provided on works taking place and planned for the coming weeks, including footpath repairs, footway works at the Boyne Walkway and car park surface works at the Bridge of the Boyne, bus stop provision, and works at the Railway Street/Circular Road junction and from the Round O to Abbey Street to the Garda Station. It was confirmed that a report on the Footway Condition Survey would be brought to the October meeting.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The difficulties being encountered by certain buses accessing streets in the town.
- The plans for the playground in Clogherboy and Claremont – it was agreed to check these and liaise with residents to see what their preference is.



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

- The possibility of identifying an alternative area to the green area at Clogherboy for the annual Halloween bonfire – it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly** that a meeting should take place between Council staff, including the Fire Officer, Gardaí and Councillors to discuss such an alternative, bearing in mind the insurance/liability issues that may arise through pursuing such a course of action.

- 5.1.2 To receive an update on the proposed Housing Estate Special Speed Limit Bye-Law statutory process.

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

### **5.2 Corporate Services**

- 5.2.1 To discuss the 2017 Christmas Market.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services summarised the decisions and subsequent actions taken to date in respect of the 2017 Christmas Market. Reference was made by Councillors to a small number of traders on Trimgate Street having expressed their dissatisfaction at not having been notified of the proposals. It was confirmed that the company organising the event would be calling to every premises on Trimgate Street next week to discuss the proposals in more detail, identify any concerns and address these where possible. It was also pointed out that, earlier this year, businesses had been sought to meet and some did take up this offer, that the proposals had been agreed at the July Municipal District meeting and that some funding remained outstanding, for which three options had been proposed and were again outlined.

It was agreed that the organisers would call door to door next week, that leaflets would be prepared for Councillors to distribute, and that the businesses who had expressed their dissatisfaction would be contacted individually. It was also agreed to defer the decision around the funding shortfall to the October meeting.

- 5.2.2 To receive an update on the planned monument in memory of the people of

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

Navan who died fighting in World War 1.

Dara McGowan outlined the background to this project and circulated details of the proposed monument, including its design, text and location, and confirmed that it has been agreed by the Commemoration Committee and that funding is in place.

It was unanimously agreed to proceed as outlined.

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

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

### **5.3 Housing**

- 5.3.1 To receive a Housing Programme update for Navan Municipal District.

David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Department provided an update on the housing programme within the municipal district, including the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF), the capital programme, Approved Housing Bodies, the acquisition programme, Part V, Vacant Homes Strategy, the adaptation works scheme, the adaptation grant schemes for older people and people with a disability, the homeless service and social housing supports.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Requested further information on the LIHAF, in terms of timescale, infrastructure provision, etc.
- The issues relating to the scheme at St. Francis' Park – the background and ongoing discussions were outlined.
- The role of the local authority in acquiring houses, the owners of which want to downsize – the options were outlined.



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

- The phased provision of Part V units.
- The future implications of HAP – it was pointed out that HAP replaces rent supplement and the scheme was explained.
- The responsibility for adaptation works to meet medical needs – the adaptation grant schemes were highlighted.

The Mayor and Councillors thanked David for the information and commended the work of the Housing Department.

### **5.4 Planning**

5.4.1 To consider taking in charge of the following and the making of a declaration that the roads within these developments shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2017

- Flaxon Hall, Navan.

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Jim Holloway**.

## **6 Notice of Question**

### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

“Could I please request an update on the water mains (Metges Rd to Casey's Cross) which has to be replaced on the R153, Kentstown Road?”

#### **Response:**

*The existing AC watermain between Metges Road and Caseys cross is included for replacement under the upcoming Meath Watermains Rehabilitation Contract – Phase 2.*



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

*This contract is currently being awarded and hence the Contractor is expected to start works on site by October 2017 and to have completed works on the Kentstown Road in Navan by December 2017.*

The response was noted. Councillor Francis Deane requested clarification on the traffic management plan to be implemented given the volume of traffic on the R153 – it was agreed to refer this to Water Services.

### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke**

“Can the Council outline their future plans for the walkway from Trim Road (Lidl) to Kilcarn Court? This is a much used pedestrian way, subject to dumping and anti-social behaviour, but could be improved and enhanced as a valuable access for local residents.”

#### **Response:**

*The walkway referred to in this Notice of Question is not a public road or walkway but is actually the reserved corridor for the rail-line to Navan.*

*This alignment follows the line of the old rail line and is zoned ‘R1 – Rail Corridor’ in the current Navan Development Plan.*

*It is believed that the lands upon which this walkway/corridor are located are in the ownership of Irish Rail.*

The response was noted.

## **7 Notice of Motion**

### **7.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde (*Deferred from July meeting*)**

"Can I call on the Executive to consider the acquisition of any unoccupied or derelict properties, both residential and commercial, for example Flowerhill, Abbeylands, so these vacant properties could be used to reduce the housing waiting list in Navan, which may in return reduce anti social behaviour concerns on these empty sites and on



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

the commercial side could create employment for young people and children with special needs."

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

*The Housing Department has completed an initial analysis of the vacant and derelict property data for the County, with a view to employing a targeted approach in the uptake of the Repair to Lease and/or Buy to Renew Scheme for appropriate properties for social housing. Vacant commercial properties may also provide an opportunity for future social housing provision. However, considerations regarding location, availability, suitability and planning matters would need to be examined carefully to determine viability for the purposes of social housing, for any vacant commercial unit.*

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

A short discussion followed on the impact of vacant, derelict units on both neighbouring residents and business and the efforts made by and limitations on the local authority to address this issue.

The motion was noted.

### **7.2 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde (*Deferred from July meeting*)**

"Can I call on the Executive to look into making the Pedestrian Crossing just before the fire station on the Kells road safer for pedestrians, cyclists and children, as there have been a number of accidents at this crossing over the years."

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

*The condition of roads in the county is routinely monitored and this includes analysis of accident data, particularly on National Roads. For instance, the analysis of the data between January 2014 – 2016 informed the plans that are now in place to carry out resurfacing works between the Round 'O' and Abbey Road in September 2017. As part of this work the road markings at the N51/R147 junction will be refreshed. The Council are*



## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

*also liaising with Dublin City Council on the use of a traffic control system which will enhance the efficiency of traffic signals on the R147.*

*In the period, January 2014 to September 2016, the analysis of accidents between the Fire Station and the Round 'O' did not highlight pedestrian accidents as a particular concern on this stretch of road. Since then, there has been one fatal and one serious injury accident involving young pedestrians at the N51/R147 junction. In light of these, Meath County Council will review the operation and behaviour of road users at this junction, with a particular emphasis on vulnerable road users, and have liaised with the TII Road Safety Section in this regard. Meath County Council are also liaising with An Garda Síochána to establish the cause of the recent accident, and this will inform the proposed review and any safety measures that may be required.*

*It is worth noting that addressing road safety issues does not only depend on engineering a solution to a problem. Meath County Council's Road Safety Plan 2013 – 2020 offers a Strategic Direction for Road Safety in the County, in terms of Engineering, Education, Enforcement and Evaluation. All of these elements are important and Meath County Council is committed to delivering on the actions set out in its strategy to meet targets and play its part in improving road safety in the county. One aspect of this in terms of education is that Meath County Council's Road Safety Officer visited all schools in Navan in 2016 to deliver road safety presentations. This is repeated every second year. In addition, Safe Cross Code leaflets are delivered annually to all schools for distribution to new pupils.*

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

It was confirmed that vehicle and pedestrian movement surveys would be carried out in the coming weeks as part of an overall review of the junction.

The motion was adopted.

### **7.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane (Deferred from July meeting)**

“That yellow box markings be installed at Silverlawn for residents exiting their estate onto the Ratholdron Road.”





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

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

*Inspections of this location shall be arranged to be carried out by Navan Municipal District Technical staff to determine the level of obstruction to traffic existing this estate and an assessment of needs shall then be made based on the results of these inspections.*

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

The motion was adopted.

#### **7.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane (*Deferred from July meeting*)**

“For health and safety reasons, that Abbeygrove residents are allowed to erect a fence on their boundary ditch at 102 to 103, an open green area where children play, in order to make safe the location and give better protection to children while at play.”

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

*Navan Municipal District Transportation Section will consider any such proposal for local improvement schemes subject to agreement with regard to health and safety standards and specification. Details to be agreed with the Navan Municipal District office prior to works taking place.*

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

The motion was adopted.

#### **7.5 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly (*Deferred from July meeting*)**

“That Navan Municipal District recognises that 95 vacant retail units in Navan is an unacceptably high number, with the amount of vacancies curtailing business, employment, customer choice and aesthetically portrays the town in a poor image and



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

that Navan Municipal District Councillors call on Meath County Council's Planning and Economic Development Department to initiate discussions with relevant stakeholders to look at ways in which Navan could be marketed better with a view to reducing the number of commercial vacancies."

The motion was deferred to the October meeting.

### **7.6 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly (*Deferred from July meeting*)**

"That Navan Municipal District Councillors call on the HSE to utilise the old council grounds adjacent to Our Lady's Hospital for the construction of a Primary Care Unit for Navan as committed to by the HSE under the original plans for the development of the Primary Care Network."

The motion was deferred to the October meeting.

### **7.7 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway (*Deferred from July meeting*)**

"That Navan Municipal District of Meath County Council calls on Bus Éireann to provide via Town Bus Service a link for residents of Navan to the new County Council headquarters at Buvinda House."

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

*A new Bus Éireann XN: Navan - Dublin (Monday to Friday) bus service will leave Market Square in Navan approximately every 20 minutes and travel up Bothar Sion, towards Supervalu in Johnstown and onto Dublin. This service will drop off and collect passengers at the entrance to the IDA Park on Bothar Sion. The return bus from Dublin will also drop off and pick up passengers at the entrance to the IDA Park on Bothar Sion and continue onto Navan to Market Square.*

*In addition to the new bus service, the 109 bus service serves the bus stop on the main Dublin Rd (opposite the Ardboyne Hotel) which is only a short walk away from Buvinda and the local Navan Bus Service 'Route C' travels out to Johnstown.*

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



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

The motion was adopted.

### **7.8 Submitted by Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons (*Deferred from July meeting*)**

“That Navan Municipal District erects signage at all Council playgrounds and parks, with the relevant post code, so as to facilitate emergency services when responding to an emergency call. Can we also encourage all local sporting and recreational venues to follow suit.”

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

*It is an anomaly of the postcode system that only locations with an actual postal address, eg. A house or a business, have been allocated with an Eircode. Unfortunately, Blackwater Park does not have an actual postal address and therefore has not been allocated an Eircode which can be utilised in the situation that has been helpfully suggested.*

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

The motion was noted.

### **7.9 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway**

"Considering the large enrolment at Primary and Secondary Mercy Schools, in the interests of safety and sustainable development and to best guarantee the success of *A Smart Future NAVAN2030*, Navan Municipal District members call for the installation of a pedestrian crossing on Brews Hill at the existing entrance to Mercy Secondary School."

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

*The location identified for a potential pedestrian crossing on Brews Hill at the school is outside the scope of the Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030).*



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

*Following an analysis including a survey/count of pedestrian movements, it was concluded that a more effective solution to cater for all pedestrian movements in the vicinity (including those to/from the school) would be to upgrade the existing traffic lights at the Brews Hill/Cannon Row/ Trimgate Street/Railway Street Junction to include pedestrian phases to facilitate safe crossing.*

*Therefore, as part of the detailed design work to be undertaken, the Brews Hill Junction is to be upgraded and provision for pedestrian movements incorporated into the design. It is also proposed to remove the existing uncontrolled pedestrian crossing at the pedestrian exit from the school on Brews Hill and the installation of a barrier to discourage crossing at this point directing students to the new crossing facility at the junction.*

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

The motion was noted.

### **7.10 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke**

“That, in memory of his brave and unyielding work serving the people of Meath and in particular in attempting to expose the harsh and abusive treatment of secondary students in Navan schools, this Municipal District consider commemorating the memory of the late Dr Randles.”

The motion was deferred to the October meeting.

### **7.11 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke**

“That Meath County Council explores the feasibility of ensuring a full length path from Johnstown to Navan town via Athlumney Castle. Athlumney Castle has become a thoroughfare to Navan Town from Johnstown and so can have a lot of pedestrians going through, however, there is no pathway at one stage so people either have to walk on the grass or more often they walk on the road which is an accident waiting to happen. A safe pathway would remedy this problem.”

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



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

*Meath County Council will investigate this matter in order to identify where problems exist and revert back to the Members with proposals and possible solutions.*

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

The motion was adopted.

### **8 Correspondence**

- 8.1 Correspondence received from Irish Rail in response to the notice of item 4.2.1 from June meeting re overgrown trees on the Navan to Drogheda railway bank in the area of Ferganstown and Ballymacon.

The correspondence was noted. It was pointed out that the vegetation growing on lands owned by Irish Rail was damaging the private property, i.e. the palisade fence, and the trees must be removed. It was agreed to issue a letter to Irish Rail to this effect and to correspond with the Planning Department on this matter in relation to the taking in charge of Glenveigh Estate.

- 8.2 Correspondence received from HSE in response to the notice of item 2 from July meeting re closure of the St. Michael's Day Centre at the Loreto Convent in Navan.

The correspondence was noted. It was pointed out that a new facility had been secured, the details of which were as yet unavailable.

### **9 Any Other Business**

- 9.1 Councillor Wayne Forde raised the following issues:

9.1.1 The timeframe for the closure of the alleyway in Ferndale.

9.1.2 The commitment given to provide additional lighting on the two alleyways in Silverlawns.

- 9.2 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issues:



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

- 9.2.1 Proposed that a site visit be arranged for Councillors to the Aura Leisure Facility in advance of the lease being due for renewal and in light of reports of anti-social behaviour – it was agreed to arrange this.
- 9.2.2 The timeframe for the availability of the results of the public consultation with regards to the community facility in Johnstown – it was agreed to refer this to the Community Department.
- 9.2.3 The mound of rubble left by contractors at Ferndale following works and the danger posed to children – it was agreed to check this.
- 9.3 Councillor Jim Holloway raised the following issue:
  - 9.3.1 Blocked stormwater drains outside Nos. 51 and 52 Clonmagadden Fort – it was agreed to check this.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

---

**An Meára**