



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00a.m., 21st October 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:

Director of Service: Kevin Stewart

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Ronan McEnroe

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Apologies: Fiona Beers, Senior Executive Engineer.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 23rd September 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 23rd September 2015 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

Sympathy was extended to:



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- The family and colleagues of the late Garda Anthony Golden, Blackrock, County Louth who was killed in the line of duty;
- The families of those who were killed and injured in the fire at Carrickmines.

Congratulations were extended to:

- All involved in securing the Purple Flag for Navan.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

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

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Tree cutting – it was confirmed that a contractor had been appointed and works were due to commence.
- The traffic monitoring survey ongoing in Navan.

4.2 Corporate Services

- 4.2.1 To receive a report on Christmas Market 2015.

Audrey Norris, Corporate Services attended the meeting and outlined the key points including:

- The turning on of the lights will probably take place on the evening of Friday 27th November with a parade and a fireworks display;
- Quotes are being sought in relation to advertising and printing for the Campaign, which will be similar to 2014;



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- Air Canada have agreed to provide sponsorship again in 2015;
- Discussions are ongoing with established Christmas Market Event Companies – a list of local producers will be provided to the event company and, subject to having public liability insurance and promoting a festive theme, will be invited to participate;
- The Meath Rose of Tralee will visit Navan on 10th December, possibly at 12 noon, to open the Live Animal Crib, with the crib opening on 10th, 11th & 12th December and again from 17th December until Christmas. Santa will also arrive on 10th December.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The approach taken by Dublin City Council in creating an entrance to the market at Stephen's Green and ensuring a wide mix of unique offerings;
- The position of the crib, tree, etc. – it was confirmed that these were under review.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“What is the present status with respect to the taking in charge of Millbrook estate and please provide details in relation to the value of the bond that is in place?”

Response:

I confirm that Meath County Council received a valid Developer Taking in Charge request for Millbrook Estate Johnstown Navan. A list of outstanding remedial works for the satisfactory completion of the development has recently issued to the receiver appointed to Hollioake Limited (in Receivership). The Council currently holds a refundable Cash Deposit in the amount of €33,477.19 for this Development.

The response was noted.



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Councillor Deane sought clarification on how long the process will now take and it was agreed to check this with the Planning Department.

It was agreed that Item 6.2 – Notice of Motion would be dealt with at this time.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway

“What, if any, has been the response from Barcape (Johnstown Park) to the proposal made by Meath County Council identifying location for Children’s Playground?”

Response:

The Community Department has been liaising with the Director of the Management Company concerned in respect to progressing a proposed site for the playground facility in the Johnstown area. Input has been received from the Navan Area Engineer and the Planning Department regarding same, and an overall outline design for the park area has been submitted by the Management Company, which is currently being reviewed by the relevant personnel, to determine if the proposal, including playground location, is suitable, with due consideration given to such matters as access and optimal site usage.

The response was noted.

5.3 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Are there plans to include the provision of an outdoor bowling green in Blackwater Park in Navan?”

Response:

There are no plans currently for the provision of an outdoor bowling green in Blackwater Park. However, the future development of the park will give due consideration to all proposals that will further enhance the public use and experience of this amenity.

The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion



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6.1 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

“That the Transportation Department considers allowing residents who hold permits to park in Old Corn Market (opposite Blackbird Books) to instead park on the Fairgreen, thus freeing up valuable space for customers.”

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

There is limited parking (5 spaces + a loading bay) available in Old Cornmarket. There are a number of shops located within Old Cornmarket that depend on these spaces for their customers & deliveries. Meath County Council currently has 6 permits issued for residents of the area. These permits are issued for Fairgreen & Bedford Place (& not Old Cornmarket). We are aware of occasional instances of permit holders parking in Old Cornmarket & have asked our Traffic Wardens to monitor the situation.

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

A short discussion followed on the need to support the businesses in the Old Cornmarket and whether a loading bay is still required.

The motion was adopted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“That Navan Municipal District will speed up the process of developing the playground at Priory Park, given that €200,000 has been ring fenced for this project and taking into consideration the very limited facilities on offer for children in the Johnstown area.”

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

The Community Department has been liaising with the Director of the Management Company concerned in respect to progressing a proposed site for the playground facility in the Johnstown area. Input has been received from the Navan Area Engineer and the Planning Department regarding same, and an overall outline design for the park area has been submitted by the Management Company, which is currently being reviewed by



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the relevant personnel, to determine if the proposal, including playground location, is suitable, with due consideration given to such matters as access and optimal site usage.

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

A discussion followed on the context and status of the playground and the actions taken to date.

The motion was adopted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“Residents of Hillview, Navan would appreciate if a feasibility study were to be carried out by the local authority, looking at the green area between Hillview and Blackcastle estate with a view to creating extra car parking spaces in this area where bin lorries and oil lorries must reverse out as there is insufficient space available for vehicles to turn around.”

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

Meath County Council would generally seek to preserve public open space as it benefits the local community. The area will be assessed to determine if there is a particular traffic safety issue. Any changes to the parking arrangements would require an allocation of funding, may be subject to a Part 8 planning procedure (depending on the cost of the works), and would require public consultation.

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

"Due to the number of complaints and health and safety concerns expressed by parents, that the Executive carry out a traffic survey during peak hour school times, to



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see what can be done to alleviate the problem of car parking outside of Cannistown School.”

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

There is insufficient space to accommodate car parking for the school within the road boundaries, and apparently insufficient space within the existing school grounds layout. The alleviation of the problem of car parking can probably only be resolved by the provision of an adequate drop-off and pick-up arrangement within the school grounds. With regard to road safety at the school, there are school warning signs and road markings in place (road markings covered by the recent surface dressing works will be replaced). Notwithstanding the aforementioned comments, the area will be inspected to determine if any further safety measures can be taken.

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

A discussion followed on the extent of the issues at the school, despite improvements made in recent years. Councillors expressed their views that these issues affected a number of rural schools for a variety of reasons and that the Department of Education and Skills and the schools themselves must accept some responsibility towards alleviating the problems.

The motion was adopted.

6.5 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway

“That Meath County Council will provide yellow strip marking on steps at Kennedy Place to assist those who are blind or suffer visual impairment.”

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

The installation of strips on the steps at Kennedy Place can be considered, subject to investigation to confirm suitability and subject to available funding.



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

A short discussion followed on the type of measures that might assist those with a visual impairment and where these could be provided. It was suggested that there were good practice guidelines available that may assist. It was an update be provided to Councillors on the establishment of the Disability Advisory Committee.

The motion was adopted.

6.6 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway

“That Meath County Council will take in charge Cul de Sac at County Road L-40232-0 (Cloncullen, Robinstown), a road serving three dwellings and farmlands which appears to have been originally constructed by the Irish Land Commission.”

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

The first 790m of the L40232-0 (Cloncullen, Robinstown) is taken in charge. The remaining 500m (approximately) is not in charge.

For a road authority to declare a road to be a public road under section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993, it shall:

- *Satisfy itself that the road is of general public utility;*
- *Consider the financial implications for the authority;*
- *Publish a notice in a local newspaper;*
- *Consider any objections or representations made.*

The consideration of objections or representations and the making of an order are reserved functions.



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It should be noted that current funding levels are insufficient to satisfactorily maintain the roads already in the charge of Meath County Council.

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

The motion was adopted.

6.7 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

"Can I call on the support of my fellow Councillors to support my motion for free parking in Navan from 11.00 a.m. every Saturday for 52 weeks of the year."

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

Meath County Council has introduced short term parking initiatives in Navan in the lead up to the Christmas period to incentivise visitors to come & shop in Navan.

However, if a permanent incentive such as that proposed was to be introduced it is estimated that the likely reduction in income would be between 17 – 20 %. The proposed initiative would likely result in greater numbers of people parking for longer periods which would have a significant negative impact on retailers & shoppers alike as circulation/turnover of spaces particularly in the core town centre would be greatly reduced. The Bye Laws would also need to be amended & there would also be a capital cost in relation to amending signage, recalibration of parking machines & back end systems.

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

A discussion followed on the benefits to business and the impact on the Council's income if such an initiative were to be introduced. It was pointed out that a decision on this would be premature prior to the completion of the review of parking in Navan, Trim and Kells. This review would consider the issues raised such as the number of parking spaces available and the cost implications of the different proposals made. It was agreed to defer any decisions until such time as the review is available for consideration.



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The motion was noted.

7 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Councillor Joe Reilly raised the following issue:

8.1.1 The NTA's Draft Transport Strategy 2016 - 2035 for the Greater Dublin Area, available at www.nationaltransport.ie, for which submissions were invited by 13th November. A discussion followed on the consequences for Navan and Meath were the rail line not to proceed. A draft submission on behalf of the Council is to be presented to the full Council at the November meeting and all groups and individuals were urged to make submissions to have the project included. It was suggested that the Department of Transport should also be lobbied to allocate the required funding. It was also pointed out the relevant development plans would have to be revisited to take account of the rail line not proceeding, if that were confirmed. The significance of Meath's position as part of the National Spatial Strategy, which is being reviewed, was also underlined.

8.1.2 Requested an update on the proposed Bus Hub and cycleways.

8.2 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issues:

8.2.1 Concerns regarding trees in Athlumney Castle.

8.2.2 Surface water running from Blackwater Demesne into the River Boyne.

8.2.3 The wall in Johnstown – an update was read to the meeting as provided by John McGrath, Senior Engineer and it was confirmed that an update would be provided at the November meeting.

8.2.4 The manhole in Old Balreask Woods.



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- 8.2.5 Complimented all involved with the recent Pride of Place awards and requested that additional categories, e.g. business and public buildings, be added for 2016.
- 8.2.6 Confirmed that sponsorship had been secured for the dog fouling bins in Blackwater Park.
- 8.3 Councillor Wayne Forde raised the following issue:
 - 8.3.1 Welcomed Minister Varadkar to Navan for the official opening of the new Emergency Department at Our Lady's Hospital.
- 8.4 Councillor Jim Holloway raised the following issues:
 - 8.4.1 Rattling manhole covers.
 - 8.4.2 Anti-social behaviour in Silverlawns at the alleyway and at a derelict house.
- 8.5 Councillor Shane Cassells raised the following issues:
 - 8.5.1 Welcomed the progress made with regard to the delisting of buildings owned by the Mercy Nuns, Athlumney allowing them to regularise and make the site safe. He also urged that any future correspondence with the OPW with regard to Athlumney Castle encourage greater cooperation with the nuns, e.g. the provision of an interpretive centre for the castle on their lands, as they wish to leave a lasting legacy in the area.
 - 8.5.2 The maintenance of waterflow at bridges and the trees down at Flowerhill Bridge – it was confirmed that the Council maintains the bridges whilst the OPW maintains the waterways.
 - 8.5.3 The damaged wall at the Ramparts on the Boyne Road – it was pointed out that this had been checked previously and the wall was privately owned.
 - 8.5.4 The unstable wall at Scoil Mhuire where the footpath had become detached – it was confirmed that the designs for the location were well advanced.



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8.6 Kevin Stewart raised the following issue:

- 8.6.1 The review of spending codes for Navan Municipal District, as agreed earlier this year, was nearly complete and will be presented for review at the meeting scheduled for 4th November.
- 8.6.2 An additional amount of €35,000 has become available this year for Navan Municipal District arising from parking income – it was agreed that this amount should be allocated towards playgrounds, for example the upgrading of the playground in Boreen Keel and the purchase of playground equipment for Blackwater Park.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára