



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00a.m., 18th November 2015, Navan Civic Offices

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

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

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Kevin Stewart

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Executive Engineer: Fiona Beers

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Apologies: Ronan McEnroe, Executive Engineer

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 21st October 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st October 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

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

The Minutes of the Special Finance Meeting held 4th November 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Jim Holloway sought clarification on whether the General Municipal Allocation had required formal adoption at the Special Finance Meeting - it was confirmed that this formed



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one element of the wider budget to be adopted later this month; however, the Schedule of Municipal District Works, to be presented early in 2016, would require formal adoption.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- Meath Travellers Workshop on celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year, the longest running Traveller development project in the country.
- Councillor Joe Reilly confirmed that a civic reception is to be organised for Navan O'Mahonys for winning the county final in two consecutive years.

4 To receive a proposal from Navan Road Club for Blackwater Park.

Michael Mills, Navan Road Club attended the meeting and delivered a presentation on the background to the club, its activities, an overview of Cyclocross, the proposed route in Blackwater Park, safety measures, and requirements.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The proposals being developed for a BMX Centre of Excellence in Blackwater Park and the possibility of the two projects, which are complimentary, coming together to develop a joint proposal.
- The benefits of the proposal in opening up the park to participants and spectators.

The Mayor and Councillors thanked Michael for his presentation, wished the Club well and committed their full support to the proposed project.

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

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.



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6 Statutory Business

6.1 Transportation

6.1.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Navan Municipal District.

The report had been circulated in advance. Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The need to consider more strategic projects and investments in Navan and receive reports on same.
- The importance of gully clearing in preventing flooding.
- The need for an update on the lands at Liscarton and the importance of putting this land to use for community and economic benefits – it was confirmed that the lands were still subject to due process but that a report would be provided at the next meeting.
- An update on the NTA cycle lanes.

7 Notice of Question

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“What power does the local authority have in place to force developers to secure derelict sites and unfinished properties or is there a possibility that by laws can be introduced by a Municipal District to deal with the associated problems?”

Response:

The following responses were received from the Environment and Planning Departments:



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For individual properties that were intact and falling into disrepair, the Derelict Sites Act 1990 provides the statutory basis to Local Authorities to prevent such sites being or becoming a derelict site and to ensure that owners rectify the site in question. In all cases, as a first step, the Council seek to engage with the owners and in many cases this results in a desired outcome without the need to go through the formal process prescribed in the Act.

In many cases, such engagement requires, as an initial step in the process, for the owners to take measures to secure the site to prevent unauthorized access and thereby minimizing the potential for anti social behaviour or exposing persons entering the site to health and safety risks. In the event of failure by the owners to take the necessary measures to ensure the site becomes non-derelict, the Council can utilize the powers provided for in the Act to achieve this aim.

Planning has no direct role in the regeneration of derelict sites; however there are a number of initiatives that may assist in the bringing of derelict sites back into usage under planning legislation.

The Development Contribution scheme offers discounts for the redevelopment of derelict sites and the introduction of the vacant site levy under the recently commenced Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 will complement the Councils powers under the Derelict sites act.

From 2019, a levy will be payable where lands specifically zoned as “regeneration land” will attract a maximum levy of 3% of its value where it has been left vacant for the previous 12 months. While this legislation has only recently enacted, it will not apply until 2019. The Council expects the next County Development plan to include the specific zoning of lands that are in need of regeneration.

The response was noted.

8 Notice of Motion

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“In relation to the new JPC which has been set up in the county, I'd like to suggest that a 6 month pilot scheme be set up in association with Clusker Park, Hillview and Belcourt, Navan to involve and include the residents. This would be an important step to prevent



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crime and anti-social behaviour. This is a new role for local authorities and is highlighted in section 37(1) of the Garda Síochana Act.”

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

The function of the Joint Policing Committee is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the Local Authority’s administrative area.

Under the auspices of the Joint Policing Committee, Section 37 (1) provides a new role for Local Authorities, which states:

‘A Local Authority shall, in performing its functions, have regard to the importance of taking steps to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within its area of responsibility’.

Each Joint Policing Committee must complete a six year strategic plan, designed to link with the Local Economic Community Plan. Following initial discussions at the inaugural meeting of the Co. Meath Joint Policing Committee on 17th September 2015 on areas of concern to the Committee, a draft six year strategic plan will be presented for review and discussion at the next meeting, scheduled for 3rd December 2015.

It is recommended that the proposed pilot scheme forms part of these discussions, with a view to ensuring a collaborative approach is achieved in tackling the issue of anti-social behaviour, and incorporation within an overall agreed strategic framework.

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

The motion was adopted.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“That Navan Municipal District will introduce free parking at Christmas on the following Saturdays: December 5th & December 12th and then from Friday 18th December through to Thursday 24th December during the hours of 11am until 6pm. This is the preferred choice of the local business owners and would greatly enhance the



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experience of shoppers and visitors coming to Navan to enjoy the Live Animal Crib and the food market. The 'Shop Local' message should be highlighted and well advertised by the local authority.”

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

Meath County Council proposes to introduce free parking at Christmas on the following Saturdays: November 28th, December 5th & December 12th and then from Saturday 19th December through to Thursday 24th December during the hours of 11am until 6pm.

This will coincide with the Launch of the Christmas Campaign on Friday evening 27th November as well as the launch of the Christmas Market on 4th December & the Live Animal Crib on 10th December.

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

A short discussion followed on the benefits of cooperation and a single representative organisation for traders, the number of vacant commercial units in the town, the potential for BIDS and other pilot projects in Navan, the impact on funding for projects resulting from ‘free parking’ schemes and the need for the private sector to support the local authority in its Christmas Campaign.

It was agreed to ask the Environment Department to monitor the erection of posters on various infrastructure throughout the town, such as lamp posts, kiosks, etc.

The motion was adopted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Councillor Wayne Forde raised the following issues:



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- 10.1.1 Thanked the executive for carrying out works in Silverlawns, on the trees in Beechmount and pothole repairs in Johnstown.
- 10.1.2 Confirmed that a petition for the provision of a footpath from Dunderry village to the cemetery was being prepared.
- 10.2 Councillor Sinéad Burke raised the following issue:
 - 10.2.1 Confirmed that the first meeting of the new Disability Advisory Committee was taking place next week.
- 10.3 Councillor Jim Holloway raised the following issues:
 - 10.3.1 The blocked gullies and overflowing manhole on Flowerhill leading to flooding in the area.
 - 10.3.2 The update on the walkway in Johnstown – it was confirmed that an update had been circulated by email and that a further update would be provided as soon as the meeting had taken place.
- 10.4 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issue:
 - 10.4.1 The potholes at the Ramparts.
- 10.5 Councillor Joe Reilly raised the following issues:
 - 10.5.1 The ongoing closure of the kiosk on Kennedy Road.
 - 10.5.2 Requested a report on planned housing initiatives in the Navan Municipal District.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára