



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

7th November 2016, Council Chamber

Presiding

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Maria Murphy

Councillors Present:

Councillors, Joe Bonner, Sinéad Burke, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Seán Drew, Eimear Ferguson, Brian Fitzgerald, Wayne Forde, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Trevor Golden, Johnny Guirke, Wayne Harding, Jim Holloway, Suzanne Jamal, Tom Kelly, Sharon Keogan, Nick Killian, Caroline Lynch, Stephen McKee, Ronan McKenna, Paddy Meade, Gerry O'Connor, Claire O' Driscoll, Maria O' Kane, Damien O' Reilly, Darren O'Rourke, Bryan Reilly, Joe Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole.

Apologies: Cllrs. Padraig Fitzsimons, Enda Flynn, Seán Smith

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Jackie Maguire

Directors of Service: Kevin Stewart, Des Foley, Fiona Lawless, Barry Lynch

Meetings' Administrator: Olive Falsey

Senior Executive Officers: Dara McGowan, Larry Whelan, Fiona Fallon, Michael Griffin, Ger Murphy

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 7th November 2016.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 7th November 2016 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising.



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3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Brendan Cahill former Sub Station Officer, Navan Fire Station.
- Áine Doran, former employee, on the death of her sister Sorcha O'Malley.
- The family of the late Pat Boshell former Councillor.
- Irene D'Arcy, IT Department, on the death of her grandmother Mary Ellen Lillis.
- The family of the late Mary Long, The Ward, County Meath.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The following GAA clubs on their recent success: Simonstown, St. Colmcille's Intermediate and Minor teams, St. Vincent's Curraha, Intermediate Hurlers, Ratoath.
- Rathbeggan National School on winning the Primary School Shield Hurling Final.
- The Pride of Place Winners in Ashbourne and Laytown/Bettystown Municipal Districts.
- Navan on being recently awarded the title Ireland's Friendliest Town by Retail Excellence Ireland and Mancini's Restaurant, Ashbourne on being recognised as one of Ireland's Top30 Stores.
- The cast and production team of the film Wild Goose Lodge.
- Devin Toner and the Irish Rugby Team's recent success.
- Gary Rogers on his success with Dundalk Football Club.
- The members of the team from Meath Fire Service on finishing 8th at the World Rescue Challenge event in Rio de Janeiro.
- The Cottages in Laytown - Winner of the Best Holiday Home Beach House Award in the prestigious 2016 European Holiday Home Awards.
- Comhairle na nÓg on the recent AGM.
- All involved in hosting the recent delegation from Denmark.

4 Disposal of Land in accordance with Statutory Notices circulated pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001



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5 Statutory Business

6 Reports

6.1 Chief Executive's Report

Councillors sought clarification on a number of matters in the Chief Executive's report. The main issues raised and discussed included:

Housing: vacant unit funding, breakdown of homeless figures re single adults, conditions of the HAP scheme, update re 4 cottages in Alverno Heights.

Libraries: the need for WIFI in all libraries.

Transportation: status re works on Headfort Bridge, update re Primatestown Junction, works on Kilcarn Bridge welcomed.

Environment: noted the renewal of membership of NFLA and need for low carbon energy policy/unit.

The Chief Executive and the Management Team provided responses on all matters raised.

6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Corporate Policy Group reviewed the agenda for the full Council meeting and received information on the particulars of some items. Reports from the following SPC meetings were noted: Housing, Community and Cultural Development held on 5th October; Transportation held on the 13th October; Environmental held on the 28th October.

6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator advised the meeting of the following:

- The committee considered correspondence from the city of Glendale, Arizona, seeking to establish a Sister City twinning arrangement with County Meath. It was agreed that the Council should focus on existing twinning arrangements and would not recommend pursuing a further Sister City twinning at this time.
- The Meetings Administrator also advised that the Protocol Committee received and noted reports on conferences submitted by Councillors, and a list of conferences relevant to the business of the Council was approved.



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- It was noted that the annual remembrance Mass for deceased colleagues would take place on Monday 5th December at 6.30p.m.

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Correspondence from Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in response to Notice of Motion 9.13 adopted at the September meeting of the Full Council re. derelict sites.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.2 Correspondence from Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in response to Notice of Motion 9.10 adopted at the September meeting of the full Council re. sewage infrastructure on private gardens.

Noted by the Councillors. Councillors expressed their concern and disappointment with the response received. Following a lengthy debate on the matter, it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox**, seconded by **Councillor Noel French** that a further letter would be sent to the Department outlining the current situation in County Meath and the need to change the law to allow the issues arising in estates to be addressed.

- 7.3 Correspondence from Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment in response to Notice of Motion 9.4 adopted at the October meeting of the Full Council re. update on the National Broadband Plan.

Noted by the Councillors. **Councillor Nick Killian** proposed, seconded by **Councillor Noel French** that a delegation lead by **Councillor Trevor Golden** should meet with ComReg. Following further discussion on the matter and advice from the Chief Executive, it was agreed that a group would be set up comprising Cllrs Golden, Gallagher, Tobin, Bonner, O' Reilly and Sarah Reilly to work on the issue of broadband availability in Meath. It was agreed that Barry Lynch, Director of Services, would facilitate this group.

- 7.4 Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality in response to Notice of Motion 9.8 adopted at the October meeting of the Full Council re. Direct Provision.

Noted by the Councillors.



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8 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons

“With regard to the proposed extension of Boliden's (Tara Mines) lead & zinc tailings pond, what safety measures will be put in place by Meath County Council to allow for the large increase in heavy vehicular in this rural area. I refer to a) the possible widening and resurfacing of roads to ensure both driver and pedestrian safety: b) sufficient signage and/or other measures to keep heavy vehicle speeds to a minimum: c) monitoring of contractor vehicles to ensure that site deliveries are kept to the agreed required levels: d) sufficient notification to local residents regarding necessary works, improvements and disruptions so as to ensure that all bodies are working with the community?”

Response

New Boliden Tara Mines Limited applied for Planning permission on 27th April 2016 for the following development:

“The lateral extension to the existing tailings storage facility (TSF) in the townland of Randalstown and the construction of an Integrated Constructed Wetlands (ICW) system in the townland of Simonstown, Navan, Co. Meath. The proposed TSF extension to be referred to as Stage 6, will extend over an area of c. 58 hectares (internal basin area of c. 43 hectares), extend to a height of 22m above ground level and will provide a storage volume of approximately 9.6 million cubic metres of mine tailings (13.6 million tonnes). The development will be undertaken in two phases; Phase 1 and Phase 2. Phase 1 will extend to a height of 14 metres; 59.29 mAOD while Phase 2 will extend the overall height to 22 metres; 67.29 mAOD. The TSF extension will be constructed using fill materials sourced in-situ from development of the basin area of the facility and the remainder imported from third party, licenced suppliers. The constructed TSF cell will incorporate a composite lining system. Access to the site will be from existing site entrance along the L-74141. To facilitate the construction of the TSF extension an existing unoccupied single storey dwelling and ancillary farm buildings will be demolished. A temporary car park will be constructed to exist for the duration of the construction works. The ICW will be constructed over an area of c. 12 ha and will be located on the applicant's property south of the existing TSF in the townland of Randalstown and Simonstown, Navan, Co. Meath. The ICW will discharge to the Blackwater River via an underground pipeline. Access to the ICW site will be from the TSF site. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the development will be submitted to the Planning Authority with the planning application. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the development has been prepared and will be submitted to the Planning Authority



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with the planning application. The proposal will require a revision of the Company's Industrial Emissions Licence (IEL) P0516-03 by the Environmental Protection Agency. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application"

A decision on the planning application is due on 15th November 2016.

The Planning Authority will have regard to all the documentation submitted by the applicant which includes a Traffic Impact Assessment as part of the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed development. It is not appropriate to make any further public comment as the planning application remains live.

Noted by the Councillors.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"What are the regulations in relation to disabled car parking with wheelchair access? If possible could I be furnished with information pertaining to the measurement specifications allowance for each disabled parking bay."

Response

Please see below extract from the Department of Transport [Traffic Signs Manual](#) for information:-

Disabled Persons' Parking (RRM 015)

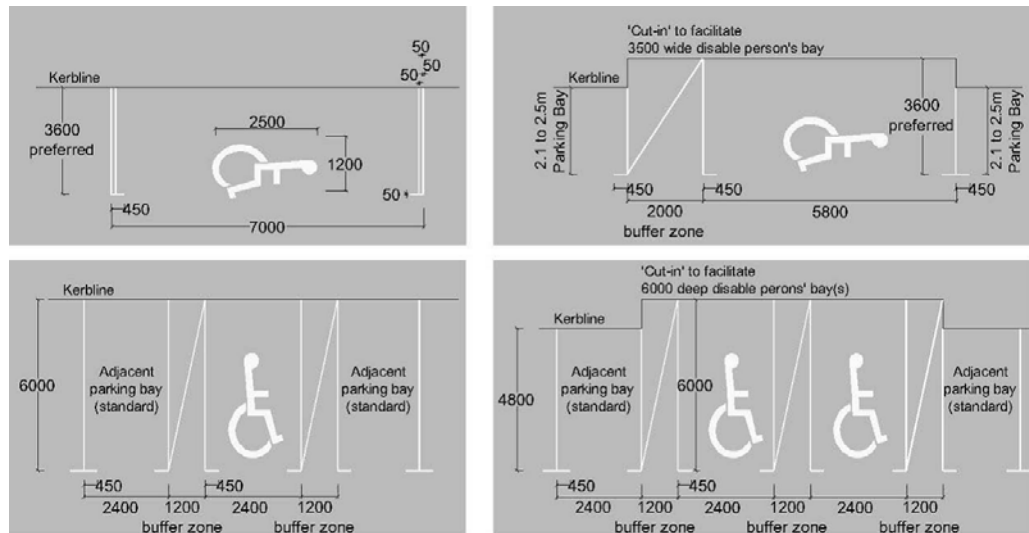
7.6.10 Parallel, angled or perpendicular Disabled Persons' Parking Bays may be provided in isolation, or as part of a series of parallel, angled or perpendicular parking bays. The dimensions of disabled persons' bays are shown in Figure 7.27, together with examples of how the markings may be incorporated with adjacent parking bays.

7.6.11 Care should be taken to ensure that adequate space is provided between a disabled persons' parking bay and adjacent parking bays to permit a wheelchair to be manoeuvred safely. It is recommended that buffer zones be provided as shown to permit easy access. Note that when two or more disabled persons' parking bays abut, the buffer zone between them can be shared.

7.6.12 Disabled persons' parking bays shall be indicated by the Disabled Persons' Parking Bay Symbol, RRM 015, marked in white and located on the outer edge of each bay, and may be accompanied by the upright Disabled Persons' Parking information sign (F 205 – see Chapter 4). The bays may also have blue surfacing applied within the limits of the bay, but this should not be extended into the

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adjacent carriageway or any buffer zones. The provision of dropped kerbs should also be considered to enhance accessibility.



Noted by the Councillors.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

“What quantity of bio solids were spread in Meath in 2014, 2015 and in 2016, how many acres was this spread on and how many inspections/checks were carried out on site of this spreading in each of the years to see that it was carried out to the standards of the council protocols?”

Response

The legal position and protocol developed by Meath County Council in respect of the land spreading of treated sludges, otherwise known as bio solids on Agricultural lands in the County, was as set out in the response to a Notice of Motion considered at the October meeting of the Council.

The following Table sets out the volumes of biosolids spread in 2014 & 2015 as well as the acreage of land used and number of inspections. The details are obtained from a Sludge Register which is generally compiled at the end of the spreading season (15th October) and while the tonnage and acreage information is currently being compiled for 2016, the rate of inspection at 58 is known and represents a significant increase on inspection levels of previous years.

It is policy to carry out inspections of all lands which were not subject to previous land spreading and as resources permit as many lands as possible where spreading previously occurred. Such inspections focus particularly on compliance with storage



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timeframes, plough in requirements (within 24 hours) and buffer zones. The inspections also seek to ensure that spreading is taking place on the lands delineated on the map submitted with the Nutrient Management Plans.

Failure to comply with the provisions of an approved Nutrient Management Plan may result in cross reporting to the Department of Agriculture and resulting in financial penalties being imposed.

Year	Tonnage of Biosolids Spread	Area of land Used (Acres)*	No. of Inspections
2014	37,417	3,236	23
2015	40,289	3,507	13
2016	No data yet	No data yet	58

*Acreage is based on average spreading rates.

Noted by the Councillors.

9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

“That Meath County Council provide dedicated car parking spaces for age friendly category near public buildings which are frequented by older people.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

The Meath Age Friendly strategy is currently being reviewed and the following action is included: “to identify services in town centres where Age Friendly parking can be installed.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**. Following a debate on the matter, the motion was adopted subject to the information provided.



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9.2 Submitted by Councillor Eugene Cassidy

“To ask the Chief Executive to provide an estimate of the number of dwellings which will be delivered by developers in Co. Meath up to December 2018, and if possible a break down by Municipal Districts”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

Meath County Council has received commencement notices for 657 individual units in multi unit housing developments on zoned lands between 1st January 2015 and 21st October 2016.

468 units have been commenced to date in 2016. Based on these figures and assuming a similar level of commencement notices during the period, it is estimated that approximately 1700 units will be commenced up to June 2018 and which could therefore be completed by December 2018.

The projections set out below are extrapolated from the 2016 data and provide for a conservative increase in output of up 15 % year on year.

Commenced in 2015	Estimate to be commenced in 2016	Estimate to be commenced in 2017	Estimate to be commenced from January to June 2018	Estimate to be completed by December 2018
189	560	600	350	1699

The majority of newly commenced developments are located in the Ratoath and Laytown -Bettystown Municipal Districts.

However, it is worth referencing sentiment from the construction and financial sectors where it is envisaged that there is likely to be a notable increase in the commencement of residential units in Navan from 2017.

In summary, while many external factors influence the construction sector, this Council’s best estimate of the number of units to be delivered in County Meath over the next 26 months to 3 years is likely to be in the region of 2,000 units.

I would emphasise that this is based on using current data to try to estimate the number of commencement notices that will be received to June 2018.

Based on the information provided, the motion, proposed by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**, was noted.



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9.3 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can I ask the Executive to provide offices throughout Meath County Council buildings for Councillors to have access to offices for meetings and printers for our ever increasing workload we carry out for the public.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

At present, there is a printing facility available for Councillors at County Hall and this will remain in place following the move to Buvinda House. When the staff move to Buvinda House, it is intended to convert some of the existing office space at Co. Hall into meeting rooms for the Councillors.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**. A short debate took place on the matter and the Chief Executive clarified that the office space referred to would be for political parties, and that the Council would not be in a position to provide space for public clinics. The motion was adopted subject to the supporting information provided.

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden

“To call on the Transportation SPC to consider introducing a Traffic Calming Policy referencing the National Traffic Management Guidelines and to include the following local factors:

- *Requests from the majority of residents similar to the plebiscite used in planning for taking in charge requests.*
- *Length of road*
- *Recorded speed*
- *Accident history*
- *Traffic volumes*
- *Vulnerable road users*

On adoption of the policy, each Municipal District would use these criteria to allocate funding and prioritise works.”

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Trevor Golden** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan**, was unanimously adopted.



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9.5 Submitted by Councillors Pádraig Fitzsimons & Tommy Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council to ensure that no changes to the deployment of the Navan Fire Brigade to supporting stations in the county will take place; and that any draft proposals from the Chief Fire Officer will be brought before this chamber."

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

Meath County Council Fire Service has commenced a review of current deployment arrangements to ensure that fire appliances that can attend an incident in the shortest period of time are mobilised, as per the 'Fire and Emergency Plan' adopted by Meath County Council (Oct 2015). This process, while at a relatively early stage, has already identified the necessity to alter the existing deployment arrangements (pre-determined attendance) in a number of Fire Station areas including that of Navan.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O' Reilly**, was noted subject to the information provided.

9.6 Submitted by Councillor Johnny Guirke

"That public lighting in all housing estates be turned on at least for the winter months whether the housing estate is taken in charge or not."

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

The legislative requirement in relation to the taking in charge of housing estates is set out in Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and provides for 2 different situations.

Section 180(1) refers to a development for which permission is granted and the development has been completed to the satisfaction of the planning Authority in accordance with the permission and any conditions to which the permission is subject. In the case of such a development, the planning authority must, if requested by the developer or by the majority of qualified electors who are owners/occupiers initiate the taking in charge process.

Section 180 (2) provides for the case of a development which unlike the development referred to in S.180 (1), has not been completed to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority and enforcement proceedings have not been commenced by the Planning Authority within seven years beginning on the expiration, of the planning permission the Authority must if requested by the majority of qualified



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electors who own or occupy the houses in question, initiate the taking in charge process.

Public lighting infrastructure that is not in the charge of Meath County Council is the responsibility of the original Developer, and the onus for the repair of this lighting remains the responsibility of the Developer, until such time as it is taken in charge by Meath County Council. To undertake work to street lighting units not in the charge of the Council carries substantial financial and legal risk and is not recommended.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Johnny Guirke** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

A long debate took place on the motion and Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, advised that the matter would be looked at on a case by case basis.

The motion was duly noted by the Councillors.

9.7 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

"That this Council writes to the Department of Health requesting that they circulate the supporting documentation for HPV vaccination for teenage girls, as currently administered under the schools' immunisation programme to all Councillors throughout the country without delay."

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**, was unanimously adopted.

9.8 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

"Can I ask the Executive to write to the Minister for Health and TD's in Meath to update Councillors on the Government's plans to build a new regional hospital in Navan."

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan**. Following a debate on the matter, the motion was unanimously adopted.

9.9 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

"To ask the Minister for Justice Frances Fitzgerald, when will An Garda Síochána in Laytown have a new station, and what are her plans, if any, for the provision of



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adequate accommodation for the force in Meath, who continue to work in difficult and inappropriate conditions."

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson** i.e. to include the wording *'and increased opening hours'* in the motion.

The amended motion was duly adopted i.e.

"To ask the Minister for Justice Frances Fitzgerald, when will An Garda Síochána in Laytown have a new station with increased opening hours, and what are her plans, if any, for the provision of adequate accommodation for the force in Meath, who continue to work in difficult and inappropriate conditions."

9.10 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

"That urgent and immediate action be taken by the Government in light of the Bobby Kerr report to avoid imminent Post Office closures."

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Sinead Burke**, was unanimously adopted.

9.11 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

*"That this Council writes to the Department of Health requesting detailed information on a timeframe for the ratification of the **Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs** which Ireland has signed."*

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**, was unanimously adopted.

It was also agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** that Gerald O' Connor should make a presentation to the Council on this matter. It was noted that the Protocol Committee would consider a request from Mr O' Connor to make the presentation at a future date.

10 Schedule of Chief Executive & Approved Orders (For Information Only)

10.1 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Transportation



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10.2 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Environment

10.3 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Housing Construction

10.4 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Community & Enterprise

Noted by the Councillors.

11 Any Other Business