



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

6th November 2017, Council Chamber

Presiding

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Gerry O' Connor

Councillors Present:

Councillors Joe Bonner, Sinéad Burke, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Seán Drew, Eimear Ferguson, Brian Fitzgerald, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Enda Flynn, 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, Maria Murphy, Claire O'Driscoll, Maria O' Kane, Damien O' Reilly, Darren O'Rourke, Bryan Reilly, Joe Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Seán Smith, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole.

Apologies:

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Jackie Maguire

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

Meetings' Administrator: Olive Falsey

Senior Executive Officers: Larry Whelan, David Jones

Planning Staff: Wendy Bagnall SEP, Sean Clarke SEO

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 2nd October, 2017.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 2nd October 2017 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Bryan Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.



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2 Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- John Farrell, Customer Services, Ashbourne on the death of his father, Jimmy Farrell
- Brenda Daly, Finance on the death of her son Danny Ryan.

Congratulations were extended to:

The following clubs and individuals on their recent achievements:

- Curraha, Simonstown, Navan O' Mahoney's, Meath Hill, U12 Galaxy Team East Meath on their recent sporting success
- Colin Keane, Trim, on winning the Irish Champion Jockeys' title
- Katie Taylor on winning world boxing title
- organisers of Dowth Point to Point meeting
- Councillor Sharon Tolan on being elected Chairperson of East Meath United
- Councillor Enda Flynn on completing the Dublin City Marathon

All involved in the following successful events:

- 10th Birthday Gala Concert at Solstice Arts Centre
- the Library Service on the activities arranged for Children's Book Festival
- Spirits of Meath Festival
- Celebration of the 350th birthday of Dean Jonathan Swift
- the local link bus service open day

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

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Planning

- 5.1.1 To receive a presentation on the Council's submission to the Draft National Planning Framework.



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Wendy Bagnol, Senior Executive Planner, made the presentation which included information on the draft National Development Framework, a recap on the Council's issues paper submission and a summary of the Council's submission to draft.

Following the presentation, a lengthy debate took place and responses were provided on any issues raised. It was noted that the date for submissions had been extended to 13th November and that any additional comments by Councillors would be added to the submission.

5.2 Housing

5.2.1 To receive a presentation on the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF).

Barry Lynch, Director of Services, made the presentation which included information on:

- the background to the process
- LIHAF Approvals Meath Co. Council
- new Access Road LDR 6 Navan Part VIII
- LIHAF Navan Proposed Housing Delivery
- Ratoath Outer Relief Road Development Plan
- Ratoath LIHAF Project
- Ratoath LIHAF project Proposed Housing Delivery
- key Features of LIHAF and next steps

Following the presentation, Councillors raised a number of issues, including the supervision of works, consultation with Moulden Bridge Residents' Association, traffic issues on new access road, affordable housing and the nature of its delivery.

Responses were provided by Barry Lynch on the matters raised.

5.3 Finance

5.3.1 To approve the raising of a loan of €1,815,000 from the Housing Finance Agency to provide finance for approved Housing Loan applications, as authorised by the Housing Acts 1966-1992.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Ronan McKenna** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.



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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:

- update requested on decision re proposal on staffing for Vacant Homes Strategy
- a question re the design of terms of reference for the allocation of private sites in Dunshaughlin
- issues in regard to the inspection of private rental properties
- request for the details of the reasons for the homeless status of individuals
- number of housing adaptation grants was welcomed.

Community:

- the application for funding re self service technology for the Library Service was welcomed

Environment:

- more information on end of life tyres requested

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.

The CPG noted reports from the following SPC meetings:

- Housing Community and Cultural Development held on 5th October
- Transportation held on the 18th October
A briefing on the Draft Public Lighting Policy was provided to the CPG and following a discussion on the matter the draft policy was approved to be put before the full Council on the proposal of Councillor Joe Fox and seconded by Councillor Sarah Reilly. It was noted that the item would be placed on the December agenda of the full Council.
- Planning Economic Development and Enterprise held on 25th October.



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6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator advised the meeting of the recommendations in regard to the following items:

- Motion from Councillor Joe Reilly calling on Meath County Council to invite Clann Credo to give an information presentation to Councillors on their investment loans to clubs and community groups.
It was recommended to invite Clann Credo to make a presentation at the January meeting.

- Motion adopted at the October meeting of Navan Municipal District.

“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.”

It was agreed to recommend that the commemoration would be organised at Navan Municipal District level and in consultation with Meath County Council’s commemoration committee.

- Motion adopted at the October meeting of Kells Municipal District

“That Kells Municipal District holds a civic reception for Moynalty Tidy Towns to honour their continued success in the Tidy Towns Competition.”

It was agreed to recommend that the civic reception would be organised at Kells Municipal District level and in consultation with the Kells MD Councillors.

- approved a list of conferences relevant to the business of the Council.

The above recommendations were approved by the Councillors.

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Correspondence from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government re. spreading of slurry.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.2 Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Justice & Equality in response to Notice of Motion 9.12 adopted at the June 2017 meeting of the Full Council re.



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request for an increase in Garda numbers and resources in Co. Meath.

Noted by the Councillors.

8 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"What treatment is suitable to use to kill the invasive weed, Japanese Knotweed?"

Response

Japanese knotweed is highly invasive and extremely difficult to eradicate completely. The approach to control will depend on several factors including the scale of the infestation, the topography and terrain of the site, the proximity of watercourses or other sensitive receptors (such as protected flora), the funds available, etc. Current control measures are limited to a combination of physical and chemical means and chemical means alone. It is recommended that a person with sufficient training, experience and knowledge in the control of non-native invasive species should be employed to assist in the planning and execution of control measures in relation to Japanese knotweed. Details relating to the killing of the plant can be located in a TII document at the following link:

<http://www.tii.ie/tii-library/environment/construction-guidelines/Management-of-Noxious-Weeds-and-Non-Native-Invasive-Plant-Species-on-National-Road-Schemes.pdf>

Noted by the Councillors.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Paddy Meade

"Relating to the successful Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) applicants within county Meath for 2017, can Meath County Council provide a list outlining the following information:

(a) The location of each cul-de-sac by means of its address?

(b) The Council district within which each cul-de-sac is located?

(c) The approximate length of each successful cul-de-sac application?

(d) The names of the land & property owners as submitted on each successful cul-de-sac?"



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Response

- there are 18 confirmed schemes at this point and the locations are detailed on the table below including the Municipal District and the approximate length of each successful application,
- Under Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003, it is not possible to disclose the personal information on the land and property owners relating to these successful applications.

Name of Road	Townland/Description of Location	Municipal District	Length of Road (approx)
Riverstown	Rathfeigh	Ashbourne MD	737 m
Gravelstown	Carlanstown	Kells MD	175 m
Clogher	Rathkenny	Kells MD	200 m
Screebogue	Moynalty	Kells MD	250 m
Mentrim	Mentrim Lake Lane	Kells MD	300 m
Galeastown	Dromone, Oldcastle	Kells MD	350 m
Tullyarran	Moynalty, Kells	Kells MD	400 m
College	College, Nobber	Kells MD	350 m
Ballintogher Lane	Drumone	Kells MD	460 m
Killary Lane	Killary Lane spur road	Laytown/Bettystown MD	120 m
Knockerk	Ardcalf	Laytown/Bettystown MD	200 m
Roughgrange	Donore - lane to cemetery	Laytown/Bettystown MD	205 m
Rathbran	Rathbran Mór - North	Laytown/Bettystown MD	390 m
Rathbran Beg	Lobinstown	Laytown/Bettystown MD	365 m
Rathbran	Rathbran Mór - South	Laytown/Bettystown MD	260 m
Warrenstown	Drumree	Ratoath MD	340 m
Ballinakill	Ballinakill	Trim MD	500 m
Moy	Summerhill	Trim MD	500 m



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Noted by the Councillors.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Eimear Ferguson

“How many illegal dumping sites were reported to Meath County Council in the last 12 months, how many of these were subsequently inspected and what were the ultimate actions taken by the Council to rectify these infringements / Cé mhéad láithreán dumpála mídhleatach a fhógraíodh do Chomhairle Chontae na Mí sna 12 mí deireanacha, cé mhéad dóibh a rinneadh imscrúdú orthu agus cad iad na gnímh dheireadh a rinneadh chun iad a chur i gceart?”

Response

Each year the Environment Department receive circa 3,000 environmental complaints which are covered by waste, water, air, noise and nitrates legislation. Resources are allocated to enforce the provisions of all such legislation where they are most needed, based on the risk posed to the environment and what is deemed a priority locally or nationally. Illegal dumping and litter represent a very large proportion of such complaints and every effort is made to ensure that all such complaints are investigated and dealt with in an effective and timely manner.

In respect of illegal dumping sites, this can range from the deposition of small volumes of waste such as plastic bags, mattress, wood, tyres etc to larger scale dumping of mixed organic / domestic waste, commercial waste and construction and demolition waste. Over the last 12 months, the volume of complaints received via different reporting mechanisms has remained consistent and a closer examination of the SUGAR Call Management shows 8 cases where the complaint would be regarded as being on the larger scale. A further 3 sites were detected by Council Officials.

For these cases, and all other cases, following site visits, the investigation looks at the impact on the environment, the responsible party, and determines the actions, including enforcement action if any, that is required and the timeframe for completion of these actions to mitigate and remedy the environmental impacts of the dumping. In all cases, reports are prepared which set out these issues and are supplemented by photographs taken by camera, drone and CCTV technology.

The Waste Management Act 1996 is the primary piece of legislation used to remediate sites and generally involves the service of statutory notices, specifying measures to be taken within a defined timescale and, failing which, legal proceedings can be initiated either in the District, Circuit or High Court depending on the type, quantity and environmental risk involved. In many cases, however, and following direction from Authorised Officers, waste is either removed or specified measures



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taken to ensure that the material does not create an environmental risk to the Environment, and without the need to initiate Court proceedings.

In the more serious cases the notices may require the landowner and the persons responsible to have carried out detailed risk assessments, and in accordance with the EPA Code of Practice for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites.

It is noted that the levels of proofs required to bring a case successfully through the Courts are extremely high and often require forensic type levels of investigation, which can be extremely time consuming and not to mention the significant delays in getting cases for hearing in the Courts. The aforementioned 11 cases are at various stages of investigation and, while none is at Court stage as yet, it is noted that there are 12 cases currently before the Courts, 4 of which are the subject of both Civil and Criminal (DPP) proceedings and to be heard in the High Court.

Noted by the Councillors.

8.4 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

“The OEE publishes regular audits of the work of local authorities, how did Meath County Council show in this offices most recent report / Foilsíonn an OEE iniúchtaí rialta ar obair na gcomhairlí áitiúla, conas ar éirigh le Comhairle Chontae na Mí sa tuairisc is déanaí?”

Response

At the start of each year local authorities inform the Environmental Protection Agency of their enforcement plans through a system known as Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI).

In drawing up these plans, Local Authorities allocate resources where they are most needed based on the risk posed to the environment and what is deemed a priority locally or nationally, and indicate in the plans the proposed levels of activity and later on, submit data on completed activities alongside information on notable achievements and any discernible impacts.

The EPA in 2015 designed a framework using this enforcement information, with the intention of assisting local authorities to implement programmes of continual improvement in the area of environmental enforcement. The EPA has applied this framework to the most recent set of environmental enforcement data for 2014 and 2015 and has produced reports showing summary results for each individual local authority, and combined results to give a picture of local government enforcement



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across five main headings -Waste, Water, PRI & Food Waste, Air & Enforcement Systems.

Meath County Council's overall assessment in this regard was classified as "Above Target" in 2014 and "Excellent in 2015 – the national average is "Target". Enforcement performance Assessment for 2016 is still at draft stage and the Council having made submissions to the EPA in respect of the draft awaits publication of the final report.

It should be noted that details of the Enforcement Performance Assessment system are available on the EPA web site at:

www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/enforcement/performanceframework/EPA_LA_EnforcementReport

Noted by the Councillors.

8.5 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

"How much money did Meath County Council spend from its own budgets on completing works on unfinished estates in order to complete taking in charge process in same estates in period January to December 2016 and January to September 2017 / Cé mhéad airgid a chaith Comhairle Chontae na Mí óna bhuiséid féin ar oibreacha a chríochnú ar éastáit tithíochta neamhchríochnaithe chun iad a thógáil faoi chúram na Comhairle idir Eanáir agus Nollaig 2016 agus Eanáir agus Meán Fómhair 2017?"

Response

Meath County Council spent €195,442 in 2016 on completing works on unfinished estates, and €492,240 in the period January to September, 2017. The increase in spend in 2017 can be attributed to works carried out on 11 estates whereby there was no bond or cash deposit for the Council to use. This funding has been provided through the revenue account from the Council's own resources.

Noted by the Councillors.

8.6 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden

"What is the illuminance (Lux) level standard for street lighting, where installed, in towns and villages?"

Response



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In determining levels of illumination, the design brief considers pedestrian and vehicular movement in relation to a number of site specific factors, such as the surrounding environment, junctions, existing lighting from shops, crossing points, areas of activity etc. To give some indication for streets in Co. Meath, the lighting classes that are the most frequently used provide an average illuminance of between 5.0 and 7.5 lux.

Noted by the Councillors.

9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Joe Fox

"In view of the disruption and tragic accidents caused by the recent hurricane I am calling on Meath County Council to be more proactive in encouraging landowners to remove overhanging and ivy clad trees from roadside hedgerows."

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

Under Section 70 of the Roads Act, it is the responsibility of the landowners to maintain the trees and hedgerows along their boundary with a public road. In the interests of public safety, Meath County Council Operations staff carry out inspections throughout the year and if any of these trees pose a risk to the public, a notice can be issued to the landowner to carry out the necessary works to make the area safe. In 2016 there were over 200 trees inspected with notices served where required.

If anybody is aware of a dangerous tree along the public road, they can report it to Meath County Council and it will be investigated further by the General Services Supervisor in the relevant area.

This item can be further discussed as a policy matter at the next Transportation SPC.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**, was unanimously adopted.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

"To call on Meath County Council to establish a Meath Gaeltacht Scholarship scheme to promote the Irish language"



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

Meath County Council is committed to investigating the establishment of a Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme to assist in the promotion and development of the Irish language, through attendance at approved Irish Language courses in Gaeltacht areas during the summer months. The matter will be referred to the Housing Community and Cultural SPC for further investigation and consideration.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**, was unanimously adopted.

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding

"I call on this local authority to explore alternative routes for the emergency services between Navan and Drogheda hospitals until the stop go system in Slane village is removed. "

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

Meath County Council has been in contact with the ambulance service to discuss the current traffic management that has been installed on the N51 in Slane as a precautionary measure in the event of a sudden collapse of the retaining wall. A summary of the current status in relation to the situation is as follows:

- all survey works are completed and retaining wall movements are currently being monitored. The need for the current traffic management will be reviewed on an ongoing basis depending on the results of the monitoring of movement in the wall.
- RPS Consulting have been appointed to design, procure and supervise all works.
- procurement of ground investigation works is ongoing with a view to being on site in November/December 2017.
- following procurement, it is expected that the main works would commence in mid-April 2018. It is estimated that it could take a minimum of 2 months to complete the works as it is proposed that the full 200m of retaining wall is to be rehabilitated.

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

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden



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“For Meath County Council to establish a lighting fund to provide lighting for estates that are without service and are in the process of being taken in charge or are unfinished (No Developer). Resident Associations can apply for fund by plebiscite.”

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

The Council holds a central budget to address deficiencies in estates to be taken in charge where insufficient funds are available for the carrying out of such works. On receipt of a valid taking in charge request/plebiscite, the Council initiates the taking in charge process and uses any available funds to carry out the required remedial works including public lighting up to the standard for taking in charge.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Trevor Golden** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**.

Following a debate on the matter and based on the supporting information, the motion was noted.

9.5 Submitted by Councillor Eugene Cassidy

“Due to the ever increasing traffic volumes on the N2 and following on from the latest population census which shows a sharp increase in population in the North East. As a matter of urgency, I am calling on Meath County Council to request the Minister of Transport and the TII to have the Ardee/Ashbourne scheme included in its Capital Program 2016 - 2035.”

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

Meath County Council wrote to the TII on the 3rd February 2016 noting that, notwithstanding that the Ashbourne to Ardee Scheme was suspended, that it was of the utmost importance that upgrades such as the Rath - Kilmoon section of the N2 and the Slane Bypass were allowed to progress in advance of any overall scheme on the route. It was further requested that the TII set out its position on how it planned to deal with critical issues on the N2 corridor. The TII subsequently responded that the Government’s ‘Building on Recovery – Infrastructure and Capital Investment’ document provided the strategic and financial framework for the TII’s national road programme for the period 2016 – 2021, and that the TII’s focus would be on progressing schemes it identified. They also noted the inclusion of Slane Bypass in this publication, and that a review of the Capital Investment Programme was due to take place in 2017, which would afford an opportunity to give consideration to schemes such as the N2 Rath –Kilmoon upgrade.



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The matter of the N2 Corridor is currently being considered as part of the Slane Bypass Scheme. RPS Consulting Engineers have been asked to prepare a Technical Note specifically on the N2 Corridor. This document will look at the following:

- the status of the existing N2 and any upgrades that are planned
- the status of the proposals to upgrade the A5 in Northern Ireland
- the Ashbourne – Ardee Feasibility Study
- the latest traffic information that has been collected as part of the Slane Bypass Scheme and the future traffic forecasts on sections of the N2
- current Policy.

The Technical Note report will also set out which complimentary or substitute schemes (whether committed or not) should be considered as part of the project appraisal for Slane Bypass. These schemes will be agreed with the TII in due course. The overall intention is that analysis and consideration of the above items in the Technical Note will suggest the level of improvements required on the N2 in the wider context, and in line with the most up to date information available.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

9.6 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly

“To call on the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government to address the situation in regard to shared ownership loans, particularly the issue whereby the mortgagees/tenants, when purchasing the Rented Equity element held by the Council, find that this figure is actually greater than it was at the beginning.”

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

9.7 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

“That Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to amend the terms of the Repair to Lease Scheme by replacing the current interest-free loan, offered to successful applications, with a grant thereby making it more financially attractive.”

The motion proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** was unanimously adopted.

9.8 Submitted by Councillor Noel French



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“That Meath County Council calls on the Department of Health to examine the possibility of introducing the 'Zero Suicide Model' into Irish hospitals and clinics.”

The motion proposed by **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** was unanimously adopted.

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

10.1 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Transportation

10.2 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Environment

10.3 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Housing

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

Noted by the Councillors.

11 Any Other Business