



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

10th February 2014, Council Chamber

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor John V. Farrelly** presided.

Members Present:

Councillors Joe Bonner, Sirena Campbell, William Carey, Shane Cassells, Eugene Cassidy, Jimmy Cudden, Francis Deane, Ann Dillon-Gallagher, Jimmy Fegan, Brian Fitzgerald, Joe Fox, Oliver Fox, Wayne Harding, Jim Holloway, Eoin Holmes, Suzanne Jamal, Nick Killian, Noel Leonard, Tracy McElhinney, Niamh McGowan, Jenny McHugh, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Bryan Reilly, Joe Reilly, Tommy Reilly,

Apologies: Cllrs. Arian Keogan, Catherine Yore.

Officials in Attendance:

County Manager: Jackie Maguire

Directors of Service: Kevin Stewart, Fiona Lawless, Joe Fahy(A), Tadhg McDonnell, Des Foley

Meetings Administrator: Olive Falsey

Senior Executive Officers: Larry Whelan, Michael Griffin

Administrative Officer: Áine Keane

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 13th January, 2014. The minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 13th January, 2014 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Noel Leonard** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Bridget Daly, HR Department, on the death of her father Sean Daly.
- Tom Dowling, former County Manager, on the death of his sister Margaret Dowling.
- Jean Whelan, Corporate Services Department, on the death of her aunt Madge Gaffney.
- Patsy Smith, Kells Area, on the death of his son Wayne Smith.



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

5.0 Statutory Business

5.1 Housing

5.1.1 To receive the Manager's Report on submissions received regarding the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 following a period of public display in accordance with Section 11 and 12 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998.

Áine Keane, Administrative Officer, made a presentation which included information on:

- The Traveller Accommodation Programmes 2000 to 2013
- The review of the 3rd Traveller Programme 2009 -2013
- Expenditure on Traveller Accommodation in terms of the 2009 -2013 Traveller Accommodation Programme
- The procedures to adopt a Traveller Accommodation Programme
- The targets in the Programme for 2014 to 2018

The Report was noted by the Councillors.

5.2 Environment

5.2.1 To receive a presentation in respect of the establishment of the 3 Waste Management Planning Regions and an update on the preparation of the new Waste Management Plan for the Eastern-Midlands Region.

Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer, made a presentation which included information on:

- The reconfiguration of the Waste Regions
- The lead Authorities and the national co-ordination committee
- The waste management planning process
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and appropriate assessment
- The Waste Management Planning Regulations 1997
- Stakeholders and key issues
- Current waste policy consultations
- Environmental enforcement review

Following the presentation the Councillors had an opportunity for questions and comments. Responses were provided regarding the various issues raised.

5.3 Planning

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5.3.1 To receive an update on the 2014 Building Control Regulations. Michael Griffin, Senior Executive Officer, made a presentation on the upgraded Building Control Regulations coming into effect from 1st March, 2014, which provided information on:

- Registering Commencement Online
- The Building Control Register
- The different but coordinated duties of the owner, the designer, the assigned person and the builder.
- The duties of the Building Control Authorities
- The three stages i.e. commencement, during construction, completion
- The types of building works that will require certification

Following the presentation the Councillors had an opportunity for questions and comments particularly with regard to the exclusion of buildings of 40sq. meters and the possibility of additional costs for people. Responses were provided and matters clarified regarding the various issues raised.

6.0 Report from Protocol Committee

The Meetings' Administrator informed the meeting of the following recommendations from the Protocol Committee:

- A presentation from Pieta House to be arranged for the March meeting.
- The civic recognition for the new Bishop of Meath and Kildare, Most Reverend Patricia Storey, to take place at the April meeting in Moynalty.
- A meeting to be held with the Oireachtas Members on Monday 10th March to discuss the proposed provision of a Regional Hospital in Navan and to discuss Eirgrid Pylon Plan for Co. Meath
- A presentation to be made to the retiring Councillors at the May meeting.
- A proposal to review the current Standing Orders in advance of the first meeting of the new Council in June, 2014.

The recommendations above were agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Willie Carey** and seconded by **Councillor Shane Cassells**.

7.0 Correspondence

- 7.1 Correspondence from National Transport Authority re. Sustainable Transport Measures Programme 2014.
Noted
- 7.2 Circular RW 3/2014 – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport – 2014 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations.
Noted
- 7.3 Correspondence from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government: 2014 Capital Allocations for Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability.



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Noted. After a short discussion, it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Willie Carey** that a letter would issue to the DOECLG outlining the situation regarding grant applications to Meath County Council and requesting an increase in the allocation for 2014.

8.0 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding

“Can I have a copy of all the plans associated with this Council's application to the Department of Transport to alleviate the chronic traffic problem at the education campus of Coláiste na hInse and Scoil Oilibhéir Naofa, in Bettystown?”

A response was provided by Joe Fahy, Director of Services, and Transport & Housing as follows:

Meath County Council made an application for funding to the Department of Transport in April, 2013, for construction of a distributor road between the old school at Beach Park and the junction at Tesco on the R150. The application was made under the Specific Improvement Grant as prescribed in the Memorandum on Grants for Regional and Local Roads and which defines the conditions for payment of such grants.

It was envisaged that this distributor road would be delivered in tandem with the development of the school campus and other developments to the north. Only the schools were built, resulting in traffic congestion on the existing road. See attached application and layout of the proposal.

The position was noted by the Councillors.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“(a) How many dog licences were issued in 2013?”

(b) How many unwanted dogs were rescued by Meath Co. Co. Dog Warden?”

A response was provided by Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer, Environment & Water Services, as follows:

(a) I confirm that a total of 3196 Licences were issued in 2013 and made up of 3184 individual dog licences, 7 lifetime licences and 5 general licences. Individual Licences can be purchased from the Post Office or directly from Meath County Council at a cost of €20 while General Licences for 6 or more dogs (cost €400) and Lifetime Licences (cost €140) can only be purchased from the Council.

(b) A total of 652 dogs were either collected, surrendered or seized during 2013 with the vast majority of these transferred to dog welfare groups, reclaimed by their owners or re-homed. Arising from a re-assignment of duties a second Dog Warden has commenced employment in recent weeks and with a particular focus on the licensing of dogs. A campaign of action is to be initiated to tackle the problem of unlicensed dogs on an area by area basis, with notices to



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be published in local newspapers signalling the areas to be visited and times that the Dog Wardens will be in the area.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Willie Carey

Can the Co Manager give further detail as to the arrangements referred to at the January Council meeting with respect to the Service Level Agreement whereby Council staff are carrying out duties on behalf of Irish Water?

A response was provided by Tadhg McDonnell, Director of Services, Environment & Water Services, Fire & Emergency Services, as follows:

From 2012, when the decision was made that the new Irish Water Company would be part of the Bord Gáis group, that company commenced preparation for the start up of a new public utility. The programme for the establishment of Irish Water is one of the most ambitious, and aggressive in terms of timelines, with respect to a start up of this scale. Irish Water had no direct employees this time last year, nor was the Company formally established. At the beginning of 2014 it had approximately 250 staff, of whom 3 were former staff members of Meath County Council. Since January 1st, Irish Water is the statutory water authority. In terms of the continued provision of water services to consumers, the Water Services Act made provision for Irish Water to make an agreement with a local authority for the performance of functions of Irish Water. Irish Water sought the continued involvement of local authorities, and, at sectoral level, agreement was reached for Local Authorities to continue in the provision of services, as an agent of Irish Water. Meath County Council has signed a service level agreement with Irish Water. Accordingly, staff of this Council are now carrying out works, for which Irish Water is the statutory authority. Meath County Council is reimbursed for these works and Councillors were advised of the anticipated income as part of the 2014 budget meetings.

9.0 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding

"I call upon this Council that, should a properly constituted group set up in a voluntary capacity to maintain any of the County's graveyards and are prepared to work with the Council's relevant officials, that this Council will indemnify them for all associated insurance costs."

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Nicholas Killian**.

Information was provided on the matter by Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer, Environment Department, as follows:

In the course of the presentation made to the Council at the April 2013 monthly meeting on the countywide Burial Grounds Study, acknowledgement was made of



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the very significant contributions and efforts made by different Community Groups and Burial Ground Committees in the care, conservation and enhancement of many Burial Grounds throughout the County including those under the control of Meath County Council.

The Council have in the past supported such groups in their efforts and mostly through funding under the Amenity and Lawn Mowers Grants Schemes and no doubt the groups will avail of such funding again from the allocations made in the 2014 budget which was approved by the Members.

In addition to this and as was signalled during the aforementioned presentation, a funding provision has also been made in this years budget for a Maintenance Grant Scheme which it is hoped will serve to provide further encouragement to such groups and elicit further groups to become involved in the preservation and maintenance of the 120 burial grounds vested in the County Council. The grant scheme which will be advertised shortly will be open to bona fide groups who are properly constituted, representative of the area and carrying out improvements which are of benefit to all members of the public visiting the burial ground. Discussions are also to take place with the Church Bodies in whom the remaining Burial Grounds in the County are vested, about a possible expansion of this grant scheme, although it is pointed out that funding under the Amenity and Lawnmower Schemes has previously been allocated to Groups carrying out improvements in these Burial Grounds.

The Council's Insurance Company have advised that such Volunteer Committees should be asked to submit evidence of Public Liability insurance with indemnity noted to the Council, for in the event of an accident they may be found legally liable if they are the party carrying out the works, however if this proves a difficulty in that that they do not hold their own insurance, consideration can be given to an extension of the Council's Public Liability policy to provide an indemnity to the Committee.

For the information of the Members, I confirm that the Environment Department in association with our Heritage and Conservation Officers are currently preparing guidelines for the benefit of Community / Voluntary Groups working in Meath County Council controlled Burial Grounds, and which sets out the types of work which can be carried out in a safe and proper manner and at the same time respecting the local and built environment. These guidelines which also draw on advices from Heritage publications are designed to protect the Heritage of our burial Grounds and noting that many such Burial Grounds contain Monuments, Archaeological and Heritage Objects and Flora/Fauna of great importance and which are protected under legislation.

The motion was noted.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding

"I call on this Council to seek clarification from the Health Service Executive as to staffing levels that will be in place in the primary care units that will open this year in the county."

The motion proposed by **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Nicholas Killian**, was unanimously adopted.



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10.0 Schedule of Manager's & Approved Orders (For Information Only)

- 10.1 Schedule of Manager's Orders - Infrastructure
- 10.2 Schedule of Manager's Orders - Environment
- 10.3 Schedule of Manager's Orders – Housing Construction
- 10.4 Schedule of Manager's Orders – Community & Enterprise

Noted

11.0 Presentations by other Bodies/Statutory Agencies

12.1 Presentation by Ms. Ann Graham, Director of Public Transport Services, National Transport Authority on Public Transport Services Policy. Ms Ann Graham and Mr. Conor O' Donovan attended. The presentation included information on:

- The ambitions underlying establishment of the National Transport Authority and the services provided by the NTA
- Trends in Travel in the Greater Dublin Area.
- Smarter Travel
- The Challenges for Public Transport and improving Public Transport Services
- Bus Service Changes in Meath
- Commercial bus licensing
- Rural Transport restructuring and change
- Public transport technology and integration developments
- Targeted Travel Management Programmes

Following the presentation a lengthy discussion took place and issues raised included:

- Update on bus terminal for Navan and the current situation regarding the Navan town bus service.
- Lack of taxi ranks in other towns across the county.
- The reliability of the bus service in some areas and the lack of services in other areas of the county.

It was agreed that a written reply would be provided to the Councillors by the NTA regarding the questions and issues raised.

13.0 Any Other Business

None