



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

3rd. March, 2014, Council Chamber

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

Members Present:

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

Apologies: Cllr. Jimmy Cudden

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: Ger Murphy

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

- 1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 10th February, 2014.
The Minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 10th February, 2014 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Teresa Carr, Housing Department, on the death of her father John (Johnny) Maguire, former Chairman of Kells Town Council.
- The family of the late Rosemary Swan, Ringlestown, Kilmessan.

Congratulations were extended to all those concerned with the organisation of the Boyne Valley Tourism Conference held on the 27th February, 2014.



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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 Corporate Services

5.1.1 To receive the Audit Committee's Annual Report, 2013.

Frank McLoughlin, Chairperson of the Audit Committee presented the Report, which was noted by the Councillors on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

5.1.2 To receive presentation on Local Government Reform and update on Meath Civic Headquarters.

Des Foley, Director of Services, made a presentation which included information on the Sub-County and Municipal Re-organisation in terms of:

- customer service
- operations
- finance
- policy and service convergence
- meetings' administration
- alignment of local and community development
- economic development and job creation
- the new civic offices project

Following the presentation, Councillors raised a number of issues which were responded to by Des Foley and the County Manager.

5.2 Transportation

5.2.1 To note the Roadworks Programme, 2014.

Following a lengthy discussion on road maintenance, Joe Fahy, A/Director of Services informed the meeting that:

- The Programme was considered and discussed and agreed at the Area meetings.
- 93% of the roads in the county are regional or local roads.
- No allocation for specific Improvement grants had been provided for 2014.
- The problem of poor drainage was discussed at the recent meeting of the Infrastructural Development SPC. A pilot project to assess the impact of poor drainage on the

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disintegration of regional and local roads will be undertaken and it is the intention to undertake a scoping study with input from the OPW.

The Roadworks Programme, 2014, was noted by the Councillors on the proposal of **Councillor Jim Holloway** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

- 5.2.2 To resolve to enter into an Agreement in the terms set out with Kildare County Council pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 whereby Kildare County Council will exercise the statutory powers, functions and duties of Meath County Council in relation to the carrying out of rehabilitation works at MH-N51-004.00-Slane Castle Culvert in Co Meath, as described in the schedule to the Agreement and to affix the seal of the Council to the said Agreement.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Ann Dillon-Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

- 5.2.3 To approve the naming of the two roundabouts ("Soldier Hill Roundabout" and "Dillon's Bridge Roundabout") on the R147 (old N3) as recommended by the Navan Area Members.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Ann Dillon-Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Jim Holloway**.

5.3 Housing

- 5.3.1 To consider and adopt the Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 in accordance with Section 7 Housing (Traveller Accommodation) 1998 Act

Adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Willie Carey** and seconded by **Councillor Eoin Holmes**.

6.0 Report from Protocol Committee

The Meetings' Administrator advised of the recommendations of the Protocol Committee as follows:

- A review of Standing Orders is being undertaken and a set of amendments will be place before the Council meeting in April.
- The travel arrangements for St. Patrick's Day.
- Further details regarding the April meeting of the full Council to be held in Moynalty.



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The recommendations made by the Protocol committee were approved on the proposal of **Councillor Ann Dillon-Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Noel Leonard**.

7.0 Correspondence

- 7.1 European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 – Explanatory Note and Draft Press Release.
Noted
- 7.2 Circular Housing 7 of 2014 – Local Authority Mortgage to Rent (LAMTR) Scheme.
Noted
- 7.3 Circular F.03/14 – Orders in respect of Local Electoral Areas and Municipal Districts – Maps.
Noted
- 7.4 Alcohol Forum re. National Alcohol Conference.
Noted
- 7.5 National Transport Authority: Response to queries raised at February Council meeting.
Noted
- 7.6 Circular Housing 9/2014 – Energy Efficiency Insulation measure for 30,000 social houses.
Noted

The correspondence was noted by the Councillors.

8.0 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“Following the damage caused by recent inclement weather and heavy rainfall, would the Local Authority be prepared to employ extra outdoor staff during the Summer months to open up water cuts to help drain surface water that is lodging on roads throughout the county?”

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

Meath County Council is not in a position to employ extra outdoor staff during the summer months for the purposes outlined in the question. It is intended that these works will be undertaken as part of routine maintenance in the context of the Roadworks Programme.

The response was noted by the Councillors.

9.0 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly



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"That this Council urges all Parties and individual Deputies to support the Valuation Bill, 2014, whereby clubs will only be liable to be charged rates on the part of their property which is licensed to sell alcohol."

This motion did not proceed.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Catherine Yore

"I call on this Council to make an application to central Government to borrow funds for the immediate repair of essential roads that have become unusable to the extent that they are now a hazard rather than an essential utility?"

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Catherine Yore** and seconded by **Councillor Sirena Campbell**

Information was provided by Joe Fahy, A/Director of Services, Transportation & Housing as follows:

Meath County Council has been notified of its Regional and Rural Roads' allocation for 2014. Notwithstanding the amounts allocated, it is the intention of the Council to make a submission for additional funding for 2014. Please note that, in 2013, an additional €2m. was received during the summer period for regional and local roads.

The County Manager further advised that the Council would not get sanction from the Department to borrow for operational matters such as road repairs.

The position was noted by the Councillors.

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly

"That Meath Co Council calls on the Government to negotiate a derogation from the EU Directive which compels national governments to put their social welfare contract payment out to tender. Loss of the contract to An Post would ensure the mass closures of our rural post offices."

It was agreed to take Item 9.3 and Item 9.4 together. The motions were proposed by **Councillor Joe Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

After a short discussion motions 9.3 and 9.4 were unanimously adopted.

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding

"I call on this Council to call on the Government to do all in its power to protect the country's post offices."



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See 9.3

9.5 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway

“Meath County Council will, in consideration of the publication of Notice by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government of its intention to review and update the Development Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2007 and in the context of the publication of the Building Control Regulations 2014, which will not apply to the building of an extension with a floor area under 40 square meters, hereby calls for an amendment to the current regulations so as to exempt from planning permission only those developments which are intended for purely domestic purpose.”

Michael Griffin, Senior Executive Officer, provided clarification on queries raised and **Councillor Holloway** agreed to note the motion pending the outcome of the review.

9.6 Submitted by Councillor Bryan Reilly

“This Council notes the County Manager’s letter of 27/01/2014 to the Elected Members of Kells Town Council in relation to the Lands at Lloyd. That this Council fully supports the position as outlined in that letter in particular the use of income generated by the lands and the long established practice of disposals of land being first agreed at Area Municipal level.”

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Bryan Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Oliver Fox**, was unanimously adopted.

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

(None)



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12.0 Any Other Business