



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

12th May 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, Catherine Yore

Apologies: Cllr. Arian Keogan

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

Planning Staff: Pat Gallagher, Senior Planner, Fiona Redmond, Senior Executive Planner

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

- 1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 7th April, 2014.
The Minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 7th April, 2014 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Noel Leonard** and seconded by **Councillor Ann Dillon - Gallagher**.
- 1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Planning meeting held on 23rd April, 2014.
The Minutes of Special Planning meeting held on 23rd April, 2014 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Sirena Campbell**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Teresa McKenna (Corporate Services) on the death of her father, Matt Farrelly.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Bill Sweeney (former employee) on the death of his brother Tom Sweeney.
- The family of the late former Trim Town Councillor, Robbie Griffith.
- David Keyes (Water Services) on the death of his mother, Catherine Keyes.
- Cllr. Arian Keogan on the death of his grandfather.
- Marguerite Kelly (Navan Library) on the death of her mother, Pearl Clarke.

Congratulations to:

- Students from St Oliver's Post Primary School, Oldcastle, on their recent GAA success and also on their success in the County Enterprise and All Ireland Enterprise Awards.
- All the communities who took part in the Anti-Litter League and Dunshaughlin on winning the overall award.
- Dunshaughlin athlete Paddy Maher on being awarded the Evening Herald young sportsperson of the year award.

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 Planning

- 5.1.1 To consider taking in charge of Woodgrange Estate, Painestown, Drogheda South as recommended by the Slane Area Members at the April monthly committee meeting on 16th April, 2014.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Sirena Campbell**.

- 5.1.2 To agree a date in May for a Special Planning meeting to deal with the Manager's reports on material alterations to Variation No 2 of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 and Variation No 1 of the Navan Development Plan 2009-2015.

It was agreed to hold a Special Planning meeting on the 19th May at 9.30a.m. on the proposal of the **Cathaoirleach, Councillor John V. Farrelly** seconded by **Councillor Shane Cassells**.

5.2 Community & Enterprise



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- 5.2.1 To note the membership of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, advised that out of the 17 places on the LCDC that the Council has to date received confirmation of 6 nominees. It was noted that at the CPG meeting it was proposed to defer the nomination of Councillors and place on the agenda of the Annual Meeting of the incoming Council.

Agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

5.3 Transport

- 5.3.1 To consider the representation made to the proposal to extinguish the Public Rights of Way and if thought fit to resolve to make an Order extinguishing the Public Right of Way on the old N51 (Drogheda to Delvin Road) in the townlands of Moathill and Townparks, part of the Navan Inner Relief Road Phase 2B scheme, as detailed on the Schedule.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

- 5.3.2 To consider the representation made to the proposal to extinguish the Public Rights of Way and if thought fit to resolve to make an Order extinguishing the Public Right of Way on the R158 Phase 1: Trim to Summerhill scheme, as detailed on the Schedule.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Willie Carey**.

5.4 Social, Community & Cultural

- 5.4.1 To approve Bursaries and Awards 2014 recommendations as per the Arts Act 2003.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Ann Dillon Gallagher**.

5.5 Corporate Services

- 5.5.1 To approve the proposed amendments, as circulated, to Standing Orders Nos. 16, 29 and 44.

The Meetings' Administrator advised the meeting of the proposed amendments as follows:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

S.O. 16 - The total number of motions for any meeting of the Council shall not exceed 8. Where the number of motions exceeds 8 the following shall apply:

- (i) Motions submitted in the name of Municipal Districts shall take precedence
- (ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of the previous paragraph the number of motions submitted any member, or grouping, shall be limited to 1.

S.O. 29 - Except with the permission of the Cathaoirleach no Member shall address the Council for more than 3 minutes on any issue. A Member may speak once upon any item on the agenda except a motion which is to be put without debate.

S.O. 44 - Members shall occupy the seats reserved for the use of the Members and shall only address the Cathaoirleach from those seats. Any dispute in relation to seating arrangements shall be determined by the Protocol Committee.

The proposed amendment to S.O. 44 was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Willie Carey**.

Following a debate it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Jim Holloway** that the proposed amendments 16 and 29 would be included in the preparation of the revised Standing Orders of the new Council.

6.0 Report from Protocol Committee

The Meetings' Administrator advised the meeting of a recommendation regarding correspondence requesting support for the erection of a War Memorial to honour people from Trim who served in World War 1. The recommendation from the Protocol Committee was that if such a memorial were to be put in place that it should honour those who served on a county-wide basis.

The recommendation was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Willie Carey**.

7.0 Correspondence

7.1 Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (*in response to Notice of Motions passed at the March Monthly Meeting*).

Noted

7.2 Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. roll out of Public Participation Networks (PPN).



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Noted

- 7.3 Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland re. merger of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII).

Noted

- 7.4 Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re Returning Vacant Social Housing Properties to Productive Use.

Noted

The allocation was welcomed by the Councillors who noted the high costs associated with refurbishment of houses.

- 7.5 Correspondence re site of proposed new secondary school in Kells.

Noted

A lengthy debate took place regarding the suitability of the chosen site for the school.

- 7.6 Correspondence from Head of Finance in response to media article regarding the finances of Meath County Council.

Noted

8.0 Notice of Question

- 8.1** Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“In relation to the Control of Horses Act, can I ask the Manager how many horses have been rescued and how many have been re-homed in 2013, and of the horses that have been rescued how many were micro-chipped?”

A response was provided by Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer, Environment & Water Services.

The following Table shows the levels of activity by Meath County Council in carrying out its functions under the Control of Horses Act 1996 over the last 4 years and highlights in particular the ever increasing number of horses which have been abandoned and seized over that period.

The Council are not required to capture data in respect of the number of horses which are micro chipped however notwithstanding new Regulations introduced in 2011 requiring such micro-chipping, it is our understanding that the vast majority of horses seized are not micro-chipped.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

All horses which are re-homed or reclaimed by the owners must also be micro-chipped before they can be released and regulations also require that for traceability purposes horses which are euthanized must also be micro-chipped.

	2011	2012	2013	2014 to date	Totals
Number of horses the Council seized	81	74	175	85	415
Number of Horses Euthanised	62	51	167	76	356
Number of horses returned to the owner/ re-homed	19	23	8	9	59

The response was noted by the Councillors

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway

“Considering the current review of Standing Orders for Meath Local Authorities now underway and the importance of the orderly conduct of meetings, what constitutes a Notice of Question as is provided for under the rules governing meetings of the Local Authority.

A response was provided by Olive Falsey, Meetings’ Administrator as follows:

As per the current Standing Orders, any Member of the Council may submit a question to the County Manager on relevant business of the Council on giving notice in writing signed by him/herself and delivered to the Meetings Administrator. Only notices of questions which are received by the Meetings Administrator 7 (seven) clear days before the date of the Council meeting shall appear on the agenda paper. A question shall be in the name of 1 (one) Councillor only. Every question shall be relevant to some business of the Council or the administration of the County or to a County wide issue. Questions that relate to a location within a specific Electoral Area or to a specific case or application normally dealt with at area level shall not be included on the agenda for a meeting of the full Council. Such questions shall be included on the agenda for the relevant Area Committee Meeting. If a question relevant to an Area Committee is submitted to the Meetings Administrator it shall be forwarded by him/her to the relevant Area Administrator and the Councillor submitting the question notified of this in writing (or in electronic form) by the Meetings Administrator. Any dispute on such reference shall be determined by the Cathaoirleach. The agenda paper shall contain not more than 1 question from any Councillor. The County Manager shall arrange to provide an answer to the question at the meeting. Such answers may be given verbally or in writing. There shall be no debate on the question or answer and no other Councillor shall be allowed to speak on the matter other than that the questioner shall have the right to seek clarification of some matter or particular in the reply given by or on behalf of the Manager. The Meetings’ Administrator shall



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

maintain a register of questions and written answers and this register shall be available for the inspection of the Councillors at any time. Questions shall be placed on the agenda immediately before Notices of Motion.

The response was noted by the Councillors.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Tracy McElhinney

“Could the County Manager provide a detailed report on how the €35,000 donated for the provision of a library in Ballivor by former NEC Management was spent and outline the Council's plans, if any, for St. Kinneth's Church?”

A response was provided by the County Manager as follows:

I wish to confirm that Meath County Council purchased St Kinneth's Church in 2004 and progressed an ambitious project for a library and community facility through the relevant design and planning stages. The local authority is not in a position to progress the project any further in the short to medium term due to the absence of funding. I note that a donation of €35,000 from NEC Semiconductors Ireland Ltd. was received by Meath County Council in December 2006 and that this funding was provided to allay the cost of providing a library. I also note that Meath County Council has already expended €308,000 on the premises inclusive of the purchase price, associated legal costs and design fees. Meath County Council is committed to exploring all avenues of funding in order to progress the project. Meath County Council is engaging with the local community and supportive of their attempts to attract alternative sources of funding for this very worthwhile project.

The response was noted by the Councillors.

9.0 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Jimmy Fegan & Councillor Willie Carey

“That Meath County Council would respectfully request Kildare County Council to consider altering the priority of the traffic flow at the Summerhill exit [R158] near Kilcock, at Mulligan's Fuel Store on the old N4, with a view to reducing excessive traffic build up.

Currently the greater volume of traffic, travelling to Kilcock, south to, or through Clane and traffic seeking to join the M4 at Kilcock must stop at this junction before joining the old N4. Much lesser volumes of traffic travelling on the old N4 have the right of way at present. Changing the priority of movement in favour of traffic coming from Summerhill would alleviate the traffic queue exiting onto the old N4 from the R158.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Jimmy Fegan** and seconded by **Councillor Willie Carey**.

Information was provided by Joe Fahy, A/Director of Services, Transporation as follows:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

On the 30th April 2014, I wrote to the Director of Services, Roads & Transportation, Kildare County Council, to seek what current or future proposals they had for the junction of the R148 and R158 in Kilcock. I confirmed that I would be happy to meet with their Road Officials to discuss same.

Following a short discussion, the motion was noted by the Councillors.

9.2 Submitted by the Navan Area Members

“ I, Councillor Tommy Reilly, call on Meath County Council to write to the Minister for the Environment and Local Government to make a grant available to householders and businesses for the installation of approved water treatment systems in their homes and businesses.”

This motion did not proceed.

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

11.1 Presentation by Meath Comhairle na nÓg.

Two members of Comhairle na nÓg, Kevin McHale and Mark O’ Brien, made a presentation to the meeting on the activities of Comhairle na nÓg. Following the presentation the Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked the two representatives and acknowledged the work and dedication of the members of Comhairle na nÓg.

12.0 Any Other Business

The Cathaoirleach and County Manager acknowledged the dedicated service of the retiring Councillors to the Meath County Council and to County Meath. The retiring Councillors thanked their fellow Councillors for their support and friendship. They also thanked the County Manager,



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Management Team and staff for their help and cooperation throughout their time as Councillors.