



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

### *Ordinary Meeting*

*6<sup>th</sup> July 2015, Council Chamber*

#### **Presiding**

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Brian Fitzgerald

#### **Councillors Present:**

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

**Apologies:** Councillors Johnny Guirke, Maria O'Kane, Darren O'Rourke, Seán Smith

#### **Officials in attendance:**

**Chief Executive:** Jackie Maguire

**Directors of Service:** Fiona Lawless, Des Foley, Michael Griffin (A)

**Meetings' Administrator:** Olive Falsey

**Senior Executive Officers:** David Jones, Michael Griffin, Dara McGowan, Larry Whelan

**Planning Staff:** Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner, Fiona Redmond, Senior Executive Planner

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Annual meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

The minutes of Annual meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

The minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

No matters arising.

### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended to:

- Frank O'Brien former County Manager, Meath County Council on the death of his wife Dr. Eilish O'Brien.
- Esther Mulvihill, Finance Section on the death of her sister Maureen Bowler.
- Lorraine McKenna, Trim Civic Office on the death of her mother Ann Josephine McKenna.
- Cllr. Jim Holloway on the death of his aunt Sr. Elizabeth Holloway.
- Gerry Gibney former Councillor on the death of his father Thomas (Teddy) Gibney.
- Catherine O'Reilly, Kells Civic Office on the death of her sister Sheila Farrell.
- The family of the late John Hanna, former Councillor, Banbridge District Council.
- The families of the late Lorna Carty and Larry and Martina Hayes who died in the Tunisia terrorist attack.
- The families of the Irish students who died as a result of the balcony collapse in Berkley, California.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Meath County Council Fire Service on winning the best overall team award at the Holmatro Rescue Experience in Hannover, Germany.
- Fr. Robert McGivney, a native of Navan, on his recent ordination to the priesthood.
- Trim Musical Society on winning 'Best Overall Show' at the recent AIMS Awards.
- Dunshaughlin Football team on winning Leinster title.

**Councillor Wayne Forde** proposed a suspension of Standing Orders to discuss the issue of psychiatric services at Our Lady's Hospital, Navan. The Cathaoirleach advised that this matter was the subject of a Notice of Motion at the May meeting and that following the adoption of the motion a letter was written to the Minister for Health. The proposal to suspend Standing



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

Orders was rejected following a show of hands vote and it was agreed that a further letter would be written to the Minister for Health on the matter.

### **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 the Members' views on Eirgrid's SID application for North South 400kv Interconnector, and if appropriate to resolve to make a submission to An Bord Pleanála in respect of this proposal. In the event that such a submission is made it shall reflect the views of the Members on the proposed development as recorded by the Meetings' Administrator.

Fiona Redmond, Senior Executive Planner, made the presentation which included information that EIRGRID lodged the application for approval with An Bord Pleanála on 9/6/2015 and that An Bord Pleanála is the decision maker. It was explained that the Councillors may resolve to make a submission to An Bord Pleanála in respect of this proposal and that the closing date for submissions is Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August at 5.30pm. The proposed development was explained and following the presentation, the Councillors resolved as follows: *"The members of the Council acknowledge the need for the provision and delivery of strategic energy infrastructure but strongly oppose the use of overhead lines and respectfully request An Bord Pleanála to refuse the application in its current format."*

In debating the motion the following concerns were raised by the Councillors who instructed that these concerns be brought to the attention of An Bord Pleanála:

- That the proposal to erect 164 pylons will have a negative visual impact on County Meath.
- That the members of Meath County Council call on Eirgrid to bring forward proposals to underground this interconnector.
- That the construction of the proposed Meath Tyrone Interconnector will compound the existing negative visual impact of a number of 110 and 220 KV overhead lines which already cross the county.
- Parts of south Meath are already subject to a proliferation of overhead lines and radio masts.
- That the Planning Authority should be consistent in its protection of sensitive upland areas in the County from the negative visual impact of development.
- That the methodology used to facilitate the underground East West Interconnector should also be used in respect of the Meath/Tyrone link.



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

- That the overhead lines will have a negative impact on the health of populations living close to the line of the interconnector.
- That Meath County Council supports the delivery of strategic energy infrastructure.
- That the proposed development will have a negative impact on the heritage and aesthetic beauty of County Meath.
- That the proposed development will impact on the tourism potential of County Meath.
- That the Councillors are not opposed to the interconnector in principle, but are strongly opposed to its provision by overhead lines.
- That the proposed development will have an adverse impact on the equestrian industry in County Meath.
- That the proposed development will negatively impact on angling in County Meath.
- That the proposed development will negatively impact on the growing Hot Air Ballooning community in County Meath.
- Councillors questioned the need for a cross border linkage.
- That the strategic infrastructure consent mechanism fast tracks the imposition of infrastructure on local communities opposed to such developments.
- That there are local health concerns for communities living close to the existing Woodlands station in County Meath.
- That the need for an interconnector should be balanced against the Economic Development strategies, Heritage and Bio Diversity plans for the County.
- That the option of running power lines along the motorway route corridors be examined.
- Councillors questioned whether there is the same strategic need for the interconnector as was claimed 8 years ago, when the project was first proposed.
- Councillors questioned if the interconnector is proposed as part of a wider European network or for local economic development.
- Councillors felt that there will be a net loss to County Meath in terms of tourism and heritage if the development proceeds.
- Councillors questioned why the North South interconnector was not included in the review of such developments proposed by Government.
- Councillors encouraged Northern Ireland Authorities to also reject the proposal in their jurisdiction.
- Councillors cited the undergrounding of other interconnectors such as “grid west”
- The Councillors questioned if the development would have a detrimental impact on Special Areas of Conservations and heritage sites such as Bective Abbey.
- The Councillors agreed to append documentation from interested parties to their submission to An Bord Pleanála.
- Councillors cited the recent refusal of planning permission to the Cregg Windfarm in Nobber and suggested that the reasons for refusal are still valid in the context of the Eirgrid proposal.
- The Councillors questioned if the proposal would result in the further proliferation of lines in and out of the existing Woodlands station.

It was unanimously agreed that the issues raised by the Councillors would be brought to the attention of An Bord Pleanála by the due date.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

- 5.1.2 To receive the Members' views on Runways Information Systems Ltd. SID application for Alterations to the existing 220KV line to allow for a grid connection and associated works at Portan Clonee, and if appropriate to resolve to make a submission to An Bord Pleanála in respect of this proposal. In the event that such a submission is made it shall reflect the views of the Members on the proposed development as recorded by the Meetings Administrator.

Wendy Bagnal, Senior Executive Planner, made the presentation which included the information on the legislative background and details of the proposed development.

Following the presentation, it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox** to write to An Bord Pleanála in support of this application. The Cathaoirleach also referred to Item 9.3 – Motion submitted by Fine Gael Councillors and the motion was duly noted by the Councillors.

### **5.2 Transportation**

- 5.2.1 That Meath County Council initiate the procedure to change the name of the street known as Broadmeadow Street (otherwise Broadmeadow Castle), Ashbourne to Thomas Ashe Street.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll**.

## **6 Reports**

### **6.1 Chief Executive's Report.**

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to address the item on the review of the Local Government Boundary between County Louth and County Meath as set out in the Chief Executive's Report together with Item 7.3 and Notice of Motion 9.6. Following a lengthy debate on the matter, the motion was adopted.

Councillor also raised a number other issues in the Chief Executive's Report and responses were provided and noted by the Councillors.

### **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 of the items.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### 6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Protocol Committee noted reports on conferences submitted by Councillors and that a list of conferences relevant to the business of the Council was approved.

## **7 Correspondence**

### 7.1 Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in response to Notice of Item 9.7 - Notice of Motion adopted at the May Monthly Meeting.

Noted by the Councillors

### 7.2 Circular WP 07/15 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Tyre Compliance Scheme.

Noted by the Councillors. Councillor Joe Reilly raised the issue of tyre trading and unregistered traders. A response was provided by Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer.

### 7.3 Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Review of Local Government Boundaries.

Noted by the Councillors. (See Item 6.1)

### 7.4 Circular: Housing 21/2015 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Tenant Purchase Scheme under Part 3 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014.

Noted and welcomed by the Councillors.

### 7.5 Circular PL 2/2015 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Planning and Development (Amendment) Regulations 2015 – Licensing of Outdoor Events.

Noted by the Councillors.

### 7.6 Circular LG 5/2015 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Domestic Subsistence Rates & Distance Requirements for Elected Members with effect from 1 July 2015.



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.7 Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. public consultation document on Significant Water Management Issues in Ireland (SWMI).

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.8 Regulation of Lobbying: Guidelines on lobbying in relation to development and zoning of land.

Noted and welcomed by the Councillors.

### **8 Notice of Question**

#### **8.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde**

*"What plans have the County Council to increase the number of Gateway employees for the county?"*

#### **Response:**

As of Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015 there are 120 persons employed by Meath County Council on the Gateway scheme – 10 participants more than our nationally assigned quota of 110. The participants are employed in a range of both indoor (30) and outdoor (90) based roles.

Meath County Council is in the top five Local Authorities in the country in terms of the number of participants employed on the scheme. The intention is to maintain the number of participants at current levels so as the scheme may continue to function successfully for both the Council and the participants on the scheme.

Further intake of participants will be dependent on organisational requirements and capacity to subsume staff within the specific terms of this scheme.

Response noted by the Councillors.

#### **8.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

*"To ask the Chief Executive to provide details of the grant scheme associated with the inspection programme for Septic Tanks and other Waste Water Treatment Systems - details to include registration requirements, the number of residents from Meath who have applied for this grant and the numbers paid."*



## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

### Response:

The Grant Scheme introduced under the Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Financial Assistance) Regulations 2013 is for the purpose of providing for a scheme of financial assistance to owners connected to domestic waste water treatment systems (DWWTSs) with the cost of repairs to, and upgrading of such systems arising from an inspection carried out by the Local Authority and in accordance with the EPA's National Inspection Plan.

The income related grants scheme, which is administered by the Local Authorities will apply only where a domestic waste water treatment system failed an inspection carried out under the Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012, and where the treatment system had been registered by the due date of 1 February 2013.

Funding for the grant scheme comes from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. The level of grant aid available is determined on the basis of gross household income and is either 50% or 80% of the approved cost of the works. The table below sets out the level of grant available, based on the income of the previous tax year.

Household Income	% of approved costs available	Maximum Grant available
Up to €50,000	80%	€4,000
€50,001 - €75,000	50%	€2,500
In excess of €75,000	No grant is payable	No grant is payable

To date, 18,501 domestic waste water treatment systems have registered in County Meath or circa 85% of Census total. A total of 77 inspections of DWWTP's has been carried out to date in accordance with the EPA's inspection Plan and of which 46 (60%) failed the inspection, and for which Advisory Notices were issued by the Council specifying remediation action to be carried out – the majority of failures relates to illegal discharges to open ditches, while lack of de-sludging accounts for many other failures.

The advisory notice specifies a time period for completion of the required works and where such works are completed the householder, where eligible, submits the grant application to the Council. To date, 13 applications have been received for grant funding from registered householders and all 13 have been paid. It is expected that





## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

further applications will be submitted from some of the aforementioned 46 cases who may be still within the specified time period for carrying out the works.

A further round of inspections under the EPA National Inspection Plan commenced in June and involving the inspection of a minimum number of 43 systems for 2015. The EPA National Inspection Plan 2015-2017 was published in June and requires Meath County Council to carry out a minimum, of 129 inspections over the three year period.

Response noted by the Councillors.

### **8.3 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O'Connor**

*"Would the Head of Finance, when preparing the 2016 budget estimates, set aside any increase in the IPB dividend over and above that which was expected and allocate the surplus evenly to the six Municipal Districts?"*

**Response:**

The IPB insurance Dividend has been included in the budgeted income of Meath County Council for the last number of years. In balancing the budget for 2016, the Municipal Districts will be allocated any increase in dividend if available.

Response noted by the Councillors.

### **8.4 Submitted by Councillor Noel French**

*"Would Meath County Council consider the webcasting of its meetings so as to make them available to members of the public who are very restricted with their access to what are public meetings?"*

**Response:**

A number of local authorities in Ireland currently broadcast their Council meetings and other public meetings over the Internet – termed webcasting. Webcasting of meetings involves the recording and streaming of video and audio content, as well as the creation of an archive of footage that can be accessed at any time, from any place, after the event. Webcasting is a specialised activity and normally requires the services of an external provider based on an hourly charge.

The live streaming of meetings has been the subject of discussions at meetings of the Protocol Committee in 2013 and again in 2014. Among the issues raised were the legal implications and the ongoing costs of the streaming service. Some Councillors suggested that an audio recording (podcast) of Council meetings would be sufficient,



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

whilst others expressed their concerns and reservations in respect of the overall concept.

It is noted that the Council Chamber is not ideally suited, in terms of layout, to accommodate a suite of cameras and audio equipment to use webcasting to best effect.

However, the Council is committed to providing as much public access as possible to Council meetings and will keep the matter under review.

Response noted by the Councillors.

### **8.5 Submitted by Councillor Sean Drew**

*“In relation to the implementation of the new National Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland and the Control of Vehicles in Housing Estates, can the Chief Executive please provide a projected timescale for the review to be undertaken and when it is envisaged that any recommended changes will be actually introduced and implemented?”*

#### **Response:**

Circular RSD 01/2015 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport received on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015, notes that new Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws should be in place for each Local Authority in the country by the end of April 2017.

It is the intention of Meath County Council to have the required reviews carried out and a new Special Speed Limit Bye-Law in place for County Meath by this date subject to available resources and funding.

Response noted by the Councillors.

### **8.6 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly**

*“Can the Chief Executive advise who is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the sewerage and water systems in estates that have not been taken in charge and where the construction company has gone into liquidation / Ar mhiste leis an bPríomhfheidhmeannach a insint cé atá freagrach as cothabháil agus deisiú na gcóras séarachais agus uisce in eastáit nach bhfuil glactha ar láimh ag an gComhairle agus i gcásanna a bhfuil an comhlacht foirgníochta leachtaithe?”*

#### **Response:**



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

I refer to the question as to the responsibility the repair and upkeep of water service infrastructure in private residential estates, where the developer is no longer available to undertake or maintain that infrastructure.

The Council's taking in charge policy together with the provisions of Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts set out the protocol and mechanism to be used in such circumstances. The Department has also issued Circular guidance to all Planning Authorities on the responsibility for water services infrastructure (Circular PL5/2014).

Where a developer is no longer trading and the Planning Authority has received a valid taking in charge request, it may initiate the statutory taking in charge procedure and apply any security held.

Where no security or inadequate security is held, Meath Co. Council will engage with Irish Water to agree a schedule of works and sources of funding to address the infrastructural deficiencies. In such circumstances, Irish water may fund improvement to water services and the Planning Authority may fund other infrastructural works.

Meath Co. Council retains its status as a Water Services Authority under the Water Services Acts and is responsible for surface water drainage issues generally. The Council retains the responsibility for private on-site treatment systems in residential estates where a developer is no longer active. This position is being reviewed and further Departmental guidance is expected in this regard.

Response noted by the Councillors.

### **8.7 Submitted by Councillor Maria O'Kane**

*“To ask the Chief Executive if she is familiar with the Riverwalk Court development in Ratoath, Co. Meath and the fact that residents have had to vacate the property due to fire and safety risks; if she will outline the process for ensuring that a building does not pose a fire or health and safety risk to residents, workers and visitors; and if she will outline the options available to property owners at Riverwalk Court, Ratoath / Ceist a chur ar an bPríomhfheidhmeannach an bhfuil sí ar an eolas maidir leis an forbraíocht Riverwalk Court i Ráth Tó, Co. na Mí agus an bhfuil a fhios aici go raibh ar na conaitheoirí na hárasáin a fhágáil mar gheall ar phriacail tine agus sábháilteachta ; ar mhiste léi an próiseas maidir le cinntiú nach bhfuil foirgneamh baolach ó thaobh priacal tine agus sábháilteachta de do chónaitheoirí, chuariteoirí agus thógálaithe a chur in iúl; ar mhiste léi na roghanna atá ann d’úinéirí réadmhaoine ag Riverwalk Court, Ráth Tó a chur in iúl?”*

#### **Response:**



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

Meath County Council is committed to working with the various parties to achieve a resolution of the issues at Riverwalk Court, Ratoath. However, the Council is aware of legal proceedings between the Residents and the Developer which regrettably has not resulted in a resolution of the issues. Notwithstanding this, the Council has and will continue to engage with representatives of the Residents and the Developer and following a number of meetings and contacts with the parties, additional information has been received by the Council for review.

Response noted by the Councillors.

### **8.8 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher**

*To ask if Meath County Council are entirely satisfied that the correct procedures were used in relation to the allocation of tenders and permits for the Trim to Kilcock road contract / Ceist a chur an bhfuil Comhairle Chontae na Mí sásta go huile 's go hiomlán gur bhaineadh úsáid as na nósanna imeachta cearta maidir le ceadanna agus tairiscintí a bhronnadh bainteach leis an gconradh bóthair ó Bhaile Átha Troim go Cill Choca?"*

**Response:**

The tenders for Phases 1 and 2 of the R158 Kilcock to Trim Road were awarded in 2004 and 2006 in accordance with the procedures which pertained at the time.

In respect of procedures used in relation to the allocation of permits for this or any other project, it is confirmed that applications for such permits are processed and allocated in accordance with the provisions of the applicable legislation at the time and specifically the Waste Management (Permit Regulations) 1998, as amended by the separate Waste Management Collection and Facility Permit & Registration Regulations 2007. All such permits are issued subject to conditions, with the onus resting on the recipient to ensure compliance with these conditions.

Response noted by the Councillors.

### **8.9 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells**

*"Following the announcement of the proposed expansion of the Rural Broadband Scheme in Meath to Beauparc, Castlejordan, Dunderry, Fordstown, Kilbride, Killeen Castle, Kilsharvan, Lobinstown, Newtown, Robinstown and Tara, can the Chief Executive inform Members as to whether there has been any information provided to our Local Authority on an actual delivery date for the completed roll out of this high speed fibre to these areas?"*

**Response:**



## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The Council welcomes the announcement of the proposed expansion of the Rural Broadband Scheme to the areas mentioned in the Notice of Question. To date the Council has not been made aware of the target date for completion of the roll out of the scheme to the areas concerned and we will follow this up with the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and inform the Council in due course.

Response noted by the Councillors.

### 8.10 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Keogan

*“Void & Vacant social housing in Co. Meath*

- 1) *How many units do we have?*
- 2) *Do we have any derelict social housing?*
- 3) *How much money can we apply to the Department of the Environment & Local Government to get these units/houses habitable on a yearly basis?*
- 4) *How do we meet the shortfall from our own budgets currently?*
- 5) *How do we deal with these vacant houses with regards to funding to reinstate these houses back into our housing stock within the next 12 months?”*

**Response:**

	<b>No. of Units Vacant &lt; 3 Months</b>	<b>No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months</b>	<b>No. of Units Vacant &gt; 6 Months</b>	<b>No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works</b>	<b>No. of Outstanding Vacant Units</b>
<b>Asbourne</b>	1	0	2	1	2
<b>Kells</b>	4	1	4	6	3
<b>Laytown/Bettystown</b>	0	2	7	5	4
<b>Navan</b>	3	3	11	14	3
<b>Ratoath</b>	1	2	3	1	5
<b>Trim</b>	2	1	7	4	6
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>23</b>

Outlined above is the number of vacant units per Municipal District as at 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015. As noted, there are 31 vacant properties currently subject to works, with 23 units currently outstanding as vacant. Of these properties, one unit would be deemed derelict.

In addition to the figures cited, there are a further 6 properties vacant in the Trim Municipal District area which are affected by pyrite, 3 vacant units in the Laytown-



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

Bettystown Municipal District area (Alverno), which may be demolished in the context of a refurbishment scheme, and four fire damaged properties in the Navan Municipal District Area.

A submission for funding to the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government, through the Social Housing Investment Programme (Returning Vacant Social Housing Properties to Productive Use', is made each year in respect to vacant properties. A maximum grant aid of €30,000 is provided per approved unit under this scheme, for a suite of retrofitting works. Expenditure in excess of the maximum grants allowable for each category of works is locally funded by Meath County Council. In 2014, the local funding element was €225,996.

In respect to 2015, a submission relating to 53 vacant units was made, to the value of €1,832,000, of which 33 units have been subsequently approved at this point, to the value of €755,000. It is anticipated that, in line with 2014, there may be a second tranche of funding announced later in 2015, which will fund the balance of properties that are currently vacant and not subject to works at present.

In addition, a specific submission has now been made to the Department under the auspices of the Social Housing Strategy in regard to the 6 properties affected by pyrite and three long standing vacant rural cottages.

In summary, approximately 140 vacant units within our housing stock have been returned to productive use (voids & pre let repairs )over the past 18 months, with a further 31 units, as referenced in the table above, being returned to use within the next six months.

Response noted by the Councillors.

### **9 Notice of Motion**

#### **9.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde**

*"Can I call on my fellow Councillors to support my motion that, in preparation for 2016 budget, more monies be made available, and set aside, for the construction of more playgrounds especially for rural parts and villages in County Meath, as rural parts of Meath are getting very little or no benefit from the LPT."*

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



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

The Members of Meath County Council approved a budget of €98m. for 2015. This budget is spent throughout the county and for the benefit of all the citizens of County Meath.

The six year major capital investment programme was presented to Councillors at the April Council meeting with a projected budget of €255m. covering all service divisions and all Municipal Districts.

This €255m. includes provision for the construction of playgrounds. Any additional playgrounds would have to be considered as part of the capital investment programme review, which will be presented to the Councillors in Quarter 1, 2016.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan**.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** seconded by **Councillor Wayne Forde** as follows:

*“That Meath County Council in preparation for the 2016 Capital investment programme Review in Q.1 would assess how much funding could be made available for the construction of playgrounds, other than those already budgeted for, especially in rural villages across County Meath.”*

The amended motion was unanimously adopted.

### **9.2 Submitted by Councillor Eugene Cassidy**

*“I am calling on Meath County Council to give due consideration to the recruitment of a County architect. The process would highlight the valuable contribution an architect would have in ensuring that County Meath is at its best when promoted as part of the Ancient East and Boyne Valley tourist attractions. The economic benefit of this additional resource would be considerable to the county.”*

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

The human resource requirement for Meath County Council is driven by the workforce planning process. The purpose of this process is to ensure that the Council is appropriately staffed so as to deliver required services. The process also ensures that the Council appropriately utilises the staffing complement and associated skill-sets available.

A position of County Architect has not been included in the workforce planning process to date. This is in part due to the availability of the following skill-sets within the Council



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

i.e. Heritage, Conservation, Planning, Civil Engineering, Tourism and Economic Development.

In addition, the staffing moratorium remains in place across the public service. The Council must ensure to adhere to same as well as the Employment Control Framework. Arising from the above the Council does not propose to appoint a County Architect at this time.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**.

Following a lengthy debate and advice from the Chief Executive and the Cathaoirleach the motion was noted.

### **9.3 Submitted by the Fine Gael Councillors**

*“That the members of Meath County Council thank the Economic Development Team in Meath County Council and the IDA for their persistent and dedicated efforts to secure Facebook and recognise the significant positive impact this development will have on our County.”*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O’ Connor**.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**, as follows:

*“That the members of Meath County Council thank the Economic Development Team in Meath County Council and the IDA for their persistent and dedicated efforts to secure Facebook and recognise the significant positive impact this development will have on our County and as such all Councillors unanimously support the application.”*

The amended motion was unanimously adopted.

### **9.4 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke**

*“That Meath County Council will immediately begin the process of forming a Disability Access Advisory Committee which would comment and give recommendations on the construction and design of all future public infrastructure and amenities in the county. All local disability groups would be asked to nominate a representative to sit on this Committee which would provide a vital channel for local groups to voice their opinions and share their knowledge on best practice for accessible amenities and public spaces / Go gcuirfidh Comhairle Chontae na Mí tús láithreach leis an bpróiseas Choiste*





## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

*Chomhairleach ar Rochtain Dhaoine faoi Mhíchumas a bhunadh a labhróidh agus a tabharfaidh moltaí maidir le foirgníocht agus dearadh gach bonneagar poiblí agus áiseanna a thógfar sa chontae. Iarrfar ar gach grúpa áitiúil dhaoine faoi mhíchumas ionadaí a ainmniú don choiste seo a bheadh mar cainéal fíor-thábhachtach do ghrúpaí áitiúla a dtuairimí a insint agus a gcuid eolais a roinnt maidir le dea-chleachtas do spásanna agus áiseanna poiblí inrochtana.”*

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

It is recommended that a Linkage Group be formed via the Public Participation Network (PPN) structure, specifically on the issue of disability and matters of accessibility, with this Linkage Group reporting into the Housing, Community & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee, with a view to informing the work of Meath County Council's Access Officer. In addition, the work of the Linkage Group would also inform the work of the Local Community Development Committee, thus promoting and ensuring participation by persons with disabilities in decision making.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

Following a debate, the motion was unanimously adopted.

### **9.5 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch**

*Sinn Féin welcomes the new centralised community grants scheme now in place but asks that all grants are drawn down and verified within 6 months of first funding being issued. Where a group no longer requires the full initial funding agreed we ask that the relevant Municipal District is informed so that other community groups can apply for unspent allocations / Fáiltíonn Sinn Féin roimh an scéim deontas pobail láraithe nua atá ann anois ach éilíonn sí go dtarraingeofar anuas gach deontas le linn 6 mhí den chistiúchán a bheith eisithe sa chéad dul síos. I gcásanna nach bhfuil an lán-chistiúchán ag teastáil ó ghrúpa faoi leith a thuilleadh, iarraidimid go gcuirfear an Bardas ábhartha ar an eolas chun go mbeidh grúpaí pobail eile in ann cur isteach le haghaidh leithdháiltí nár chaitheadh.*

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

The Community Grant Scheme is to be considered by members of the Housing, Community & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee at its meeting scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015. The overall framework of the Scheme will be considered,



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

and the content of this Notice of Motion will be brought to the Members' attention as part of this process.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**, was noted.

### **9.6 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly**

*"The members of Meath County Council oppose any proposals or recommendations that the boundary between County Louth and County Meath and the area of the Borough District of Drogheda should be altered in any way from its current county lines."*

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

See Item 7.3 (Correspondence re Review of Local Government Boundaries) and Item 6.1 (Chief Executive's Report)

### **9.7 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde**

*"Can I call on my fellow Councillors to support my motion of writing to the Garda Commissioner, with a view to seeking a meeting with our County Councillors, to discuss recruiting more Gardaí for County Meath, as anti social behaviour has risen to an all time high right across county Meath."*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Kelly**.

An amendment was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin**, seconded by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** as follows:

*"To call on Meath County Council to write to the Garda Commissioner, and to the Minister for Justice seeking a meeting, to discuss Garda numbers in County Meath."*

The amended motion was unanimously adopted.

It was also agreed that this matter would be referred to the JPC and the Housing SPC.

### **9.8 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O'Connor**

*"That Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Finance, as part of his Budget proposals, to review the thresholds for inheritance tax (Capital Acquisition Tax) in light of the increase in property values in Meath."*



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Enda Flynn**, was unanimously adopted.

### **9.9 Submitted by Councillor Noel French**

*"That Meath County Council supports Pope Francis's encyclical "Laudato Si" calling for a cultural revolution to protect the Earth and fight global warming."*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Jim Holloway**. Following a debate on the motion, it was unanimously agreed that the matter would be referred to the Environmental SPC.

### **9.10 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy**

*"We ask the Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government to review the payments in 2015 to those Local Authorities who chose to reduce their LPT rates in 2014 and subsequently requested and received Equalisation Funds."*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

Following a debate, and advice from the Chief Executive that a submission was being prepared on the matter, it was agreed to defer the motion.

### **9.11 Submitted by Fianna Fáil Councillors**

*"That Meath County Council members request the Minister for Justice to reverse the closure of rural Garda Stations across County Meath and, in the interim, that additional members of the force are deployed to Meath in order to allow higher visibility of patrols in more rural locations."*

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna**, was unanimously adopted.

### **9.12 Submitted by Sinn Féin Councillors**

*"That Meath County Council recognises the extremely restricted and limited community Council engagement allowed under the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006 as deeply flawed; that this restriction serves only to fast-track massive developments in communities often very opposed to them and, furthermore, to undermine public confidence in the entire planning process. Meath County Council*



## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

*therefore calls on the Government to immediately repeal the Act and replace it with legislation based on community participation and best practice / Go n-aithníonn Comhairle Chontae na Mí go bhfuil an caidreamh gníomhach pobail agus comhairle fíor-shrianta agus teoranta atá ann faoin Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt (Bonneagar Straitéiseach) 2006 an-lochtach, agus nach ndéanann an sriantacht ach forbraíochtaí ollmhóra a bhfuil na pobail go mór i gcoinne chun críche go tapa, agus in a theannta leis go laghdaíonn sé an muinín poiblí atá ann sa phróiseas pleanála iomlán. Éilíonn Comhairle Chontae na Mí ar an Rialtas an t-acht seo a aisghair agus reachtaíocht bunaithe ar rannpháirtíocht pobail agus dea-chleachtas a chur ina áit.*

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

Meath Co Council is duty bound to exercise its statutory powers as a Planning Authority in the context of the Planning and Development Acts. It must also have regard to guidance from the Minister of the Environment Community & Local Government and the policies of the Government generally.

A Planning Authority must also assist An Bord Pleanála in the processing of applications under the provisions of Strategic Infrastructure Development Act.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.

The Cathaoirleach proposed a small amendment to the wording i.e. that 'the Members of Meath County Council' would replace 'Meath County Council'...

The amended motion was unanimously adopted.

### **9.13 Submitted by Councillor Eimear Ferguson**

*“That Meath County Council should write to the Department of Social Protection to seek absolute clarity in relation to the Rent Allowance rates that apply to all areas of Co. Meath, the possible discretion allowed to Community Welfare Officers, and the standards and protocols which inform same / Go scríobhfaidh Comhairle Chontae na Mí chuig an Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí chun soiléire iomlán a fháil maidir leis na rátaí liúntas cíosa atá i bhfeidhm i ngach cuid de Chontae na Mí, an rogha féidearthach atá ann do Oifigigh Leasa Pobail agus na caighdeáin agus prótacail a leanann siad.”*

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**, was unanimously adopted.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### **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 Construction

Noted by the Councillors.

### **11 Presentations by other Bodies/Statutory Agencies**

11.1 Presentation from South Meath Social Economy Ltd.

Councillors received a presentation by representatives of South Meath Social Economy Ltd., Martin Smith and Jim Pentony.

The presentation was noted by the Councillors and the Cathaoirleach acknowledged the work of the company and the report that was provided to the Councillors.

### **12 Any Other Business**