



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

7th September 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, Johnny Guirke, 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, Maria O' Kane, Damien O' Reilly, Darren O' Rourke, Bryan Reilly, Joe Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Seán Smith, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole.

Apologies: Councillor Sarah Reilly

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Jackie Maguire

Directors of Service: Kevin Stewart, Des Foley, John McGrath (A)

Meetings' Administrator: Olive Falsey

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

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 6th July 2015.

The minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 6th July 2015 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Councillor Sharon Keogan on the death of her father Seán Keogan.
- Alison Ryan, Planning Department, on the death of her father Chris Ryan.
- Jim Gibney, Planning Department & Mary Gibney, Housing Department, on the death of his/her sister/sister-in-law Valerie Fagan.
- Danny McLoughlin, former County Secretary & Area Manager on the death of his father Frank McLoughlin.
- Sheila & Maeve Sheridan, Corporate Services on the death of their father-in-law and Teresa Russell, Corporate Services on the death of her brother-in-law, John Sheridan.
- Pat Lynskey, Sewerage & Network Caretaker on the death of his mother Annie Nancy Lynskey.
- Eugene Cummins, former Director of Services on the death of his brother Kenneth Owen (Ken) Cummins.
- Cllr. Sharon Tolan on the death of her father-in-law Frank Tolan.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Elysha Brennan, Bettystown, on being crowned the 57th Rose of Tralee.
- Jonathan Marry on winning the 2015 Macra na Feirme/FBD Young Farmer of the Year.
- Meath County Library Service on the introduction of a six day service in Trim.
- Kells Handball Club on its recent success at the World Championships in Canada.
- Tony Kennedy, and the members of the Irish Young Rider Eventing Squad on their success at European Young Rider Eventing Championships in Poland.

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



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Corporate Services

- 5.1.1 To note the 2014 Meath County Council Annual Report.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 5.1.2 To note date for meeting of Councillors with Drogheda Boundary Review Committee on Friday 9th October at 10.00 a.m. in the Newgrange Hotel, Navan.

The Cathaoirleach requested that all Councillors should attend, if possible, and that the committee intends to meet Councillors on the morning of the 9th October. The Cathaoirleach also noted that a meeting with the Oireachtas Members took place on the 31st August and that, while not all Oireachtas members attended the meeting, those present agreed that a very strong case should be made not to change the boundary.

The Chief Executive and Des Foley, Director of Services, noted:

- that two meetings were held with the boundary committee and that the report of the committee is due to be submitted to the Minister by the end of November.
- that a request was made by the Laytown/Bettystown Councillors to extend the deadline so that further consultation could take place.
- that structured criteria with regard to the undertaking of the review has yet to be finalised but that likely areas for consideration would include population and future vision for Drogheda, financial data, economic development and governance structures.
- that documents had been presented to the committee such as the County Development Plan, the Economic Strategy and the Local Area Plan for South Drogheda.
- that an internal group is compiling relevant data to present a strong defence for not changing the boundary.

The update was noted by the Councillors.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

5.2 Finance

5.2.1 To agree a date Monday 28th September at 10.00 a.m. to consider the report of the Chief Executive prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) Regulations 2014, for the purpose of resolving as follows:

- a) Vary the basic rate and set a local adjustment factor that will apply for a period of one year from the next Local Property Tax liability date, or
- b) Not vary the basic rate, or
- c) Decide to consider the matter further at a subsequent meeting of Meath County Council to be held not later than the 30th September, 2015.

Agreed by the Councillors. It was also agreed that items 7.6 (Circular Fin.06/2015) and Motions 9.10 and 9.18 would be referred for discussion at the meeting on the 28th September.

5.2.2 To set dates for Municipal Districts to consider and adopt draft Budgetary Plan – proposed dates: Monday 12th October (Ratoath 10.00a.m. and Ashbourne 2.30p.m.) Tuesday 13th October (Navan 10.00a.m. and Kells 4.00p.m.), Wednesday 14th October (Laytown/Bettystown 10.00a.m. and Trim 2.30p.m.)

It was agreed to review the dates and notify Councillors of confirmed dates for the meetings.

5.2.3 To receive a report on the Management Accounts of Meath County Council in respect of Q2 2015.

Paul Timoney, Management Accountant, made the presentation which included information regarding Housing, Roads, Water and Waste Water, Development Management, and Environment. The Chief Executive informed of increases in income in some areas and that additional spending of €640,000 had been allocated to the roads programme.

Following the presentation Councillors raised a number of issues and responses were provided by the Chief Executive.

The report was noted by the Councillors.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

6 Reports

6.1 Chief Executive's Report

Councillor Cassells requested an update on funding regarding the preservation of the old Kilcarn bridge, which was provided by the Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive's Report was duly 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. The CPG also noted reports from the following SPC meetings: Planning Economic Development and Enterprise on 22nd July and Housing, Community and Cultural Development on 30th June and 24th September.

6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator advised of the following recommendations agreed at the Protocol Committee:

- That a civic reception would be organised, preferably in the Laytown /Bettystown area, to recognise the Rose of Tralee, Elysha Brennan.
- That the Kells Handball World Championship winners would receive a civic recognition at the Kells MD meeting on 21st September.
- That the Special Olympians from Meath would receive a civic recognition by the Cathaoirleach on a date to be agreed.
- That Trim Musical Society, Liam Foley and Andrew Bushe would receive a civic recognition for their achievements in 2015 at the Trim MD meeting on 11st September.

The Protocol Committee received an update from Ciarán Mangan on the 2016 commemorative activities. The matter of a fitting commemoration by the Council was discussed and it was agreed that the creation of a remembrance garden at Buvinda House would be explored.

Reports on conferences submitted by Councillors were noted and a list of conferences relevant to the business of the Council was approved.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The recommendations of the Protocol Committee were approved on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Shane Cassells**.

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Office of the Minister for Justice & Equality in response to Notice of Item 9.11 - Notice of Motion adopted at the July Monthly Meeting.

Noted by Councillors.

- 7.2 IPB Insurance re. Members Commercial Dividend Payment 2015 (Particular to 2014 Financial Reporting Period).

Noted by Councillors. **Councillor Cassells** noted that the dividend should be divided among the six Municipal Districts for community initiatives and that this should be agreed as part of the budgetary process.

- 7.3 Circular BH&AP/NLS 1/2015 – Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht re. National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025.

Noted by Councillors.

- 7.4 Standards in Public Office Commission re. Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015.

Noted by Councillors. It was noted that a presentation would be made at the Municipal District meetings in September and that the AILG would be including a seminar on the Lobbying Act in the forthcoming programme of training events.

- 7.5 RW 13/2015 – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport re. Additional Funding.

Noted by Councillors.

- 7.6 Circular Fin 06/2015 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. 2015 Local Property Tax (LPT) Statistics and Property Valuation Bands – Meath County Council.

Noted by Councillors. See Item 5.2.1



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- 7.7 Circular EA 1/2015 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Local Agenda 21 (LA21) Environmental Partnership Fund 2015.

Noted by Councillors. **Councillor Gillian Toole** noted that this correspondence should be issued to Local Authorities earlier in the year.

- 7.8 Circular Letter PL 5/2015 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Matters relating to National WayMarked Ways – clarification between permissive trails as distinct from public rights of way.

Noted by Councillors.

- 7.9 Circular Letter WP 10/15 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Introduction of new primary waste management legislation.

Noted by Councillors.

- 7.10 Circular: Housing 33 of 2015 – Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 – amendments to the operation of Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

Noted by Councillors.

8 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding

“Can I ask the Chief Executive at what stage will this Local Authority be in a position to seek a pre planning consultation with An Bord Pleanála regarding a new application for the Slane By Pass?”

Response:

In relation to the question above, Meath County Council wrote to An Bord Pleanála on 30/7/15 seeking a consultation in relation to a new application for the bypass. The request was acknowledged and the Board advised that it would revert to the Council in due course.

Noted by the Councillors.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells

“Could the Chief Executive please clarify that where the Council has declared a road within a housing estate a public road (such as the most recent public notice declaring the intention to take roads within Aylsbury Lodge into public charge), will the practice of clamping cars on these roads by a management company become an illegal practice?”

Response:

S. 3 of S.I. No. 247/1998 - Road Traffic (Immobilisation of Vehicles) Regulations, 1998 provides :-

The following are hereby prescribed as authorised persons for the purposes of section 101B of the Principal Act: -

(a) a member of the Garda Síochána;

(b) a person appointed in writing by a local authority for the said purposes;

(c) a traffic warden.

Therefore the management company will have no authority to clamp on a public road (it should be noted that it is not Meath County Council’s intention to introduce clamping).

Noted by the Councillors.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“What is the current situation in relation to the purchase of a jet cleaner for the county of Meath by the Local Authority, or will there be a tender process for subcontractors to carry out the cleaning works associated with overgrown gullies which cause problems with surface water?”

Response:

The Council has tendered for the supply of 2 No Jet Vac machines for the purpose of cleaning gullies throughout the County. It is expected that the tender process will be



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

completed and a contractor appointed by mid. September. The information collected from the operation of the hired vehicles will inform the business case for the purchase of a similar machine by the Council, which the Council propose to revisit in due course.

Noted by the Councillors.

8.4 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

“Can I ask the Chief Executive could the Council explore the possibility of Meath Fire and Rescue Service to co-respond with the HSE NAS for all cardiac arrest calls, echo and delta calls, as we have a number of strategically placed fire stations throughout Meath with First Responders and a number of EMT's with AED's ready to respond to these emergencies?”

Response:

The National Ambulance Service (NAS), as the statutory public ambulance service in Ireland, has responsibility for the provision of services associated with Pre-Hospital care. Meath Fire & Rescue Service will endeavour to provide assistance to the NAS in the delivery of this service in an effective and efficient manner, and will explore the possibility of improving the existing arrangement without taking over the statutory role of the National Ambulance Service (NAS).

Noted by the Councillors.

8.5 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“In light of Meath Co. Council sending out reminder letters for dog licence renewals, was there an increase in licences purchased as a result.”

Response:

In the course of discussion on previous Notices of Motions / Question relating to Dog Control and including dog licensing, indications were given that various measures were to be initiated to increase the number of Dog Licences being purchased and with the resulting increased income stream being re-invested in promoting responsible dog ownership.

A number of measures has been initiated in recent months including an increase in visits by the Dog Wardens into housing estates on an area by area basis, the carrying out of licence checks, the issuing of 10 day notices as well as renewal notices where licences are nearing expiry, and enforcement action in a number of cases for non payment of fines etc. This action has seen a circa 24% increase in the number of licences



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

purchased in the first six months of 2015 (636) compared to the same period in 2014 (492).

As resources and workloads permit in the Environment Department, it is proposed to continue and intensify this level of activity to further increase the number of licences being purchased.

A Business Case has been prepared at National level for the automation of the dog licensing system into a single national database, which it is suggested will lead to greater efficiencies in the licensing system as well as both savings and potential revenue increases for Local Authorities. A number of working groups have been established to progress this system.

Noted by the Councillors.

8.6 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

“To ask the Chief Executive the numbers on the housing transfer list waiting for transfer from a 3 bedroom property to a 2 bedroom property?”

Response:

As at 31st August 2015, the number of tenants seeking a transfer was 181. Of this total figure, there are 72 requests for a transfer to a 2 bed house. While the data is not readily available in respect to the breakdown of transfer applicants' current accommodation, experience to date in processing transfer requests would infer that there would be minimal, if any, requests from an applicant in a three bed unit for a two bed property.

Noted by the Councillors.

8.7 Submitted by Councillor Claire O'Driscoll

“What has the financial cost to the Council been in 2015 of placing people in emergency accommodation? Can I have a breakdown of the monies that have been paid to outside agencies such as hotels or landlords to accommodate people who are classed as homeless? How many bed nights has this sum/ these sums provided for and in these cases how many people were being provided for in this situation? Is it the opinion of the executive that the additional €50,000 budgeted for this year will be sufficient?”



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Response:

For the period January – August 2015, the total cost of providing emergency accommodation amounted to €167,000. A breakdown of this expenditure per category of service provider is outlined below:

- Bed & Breakfast - €55,186
- Landlords - €109,834
- Hotel - €480
- Drogheda Homeless Aid - €1,500

For the same period, the number of bed nights equates to 15,688, with 149 households requiring an emergency accommodation placement.

The adopted budget for 2015 with respect to emergency accommodation was €130,000. As per the data provided above, this budget has been exceeded. However, it was committed at the 2015 Budget meeting that no person would be refused emergency accommodation due to budgetary constraints. Accordingly, the provision of emergency accommodation will continue to be funded to meet the current demand.

Noted by the Councillors.

9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

“That Meath County Council produce as soon as possible a pro-active renewable energy strategy promoting technologies that are most viable to County Meath in order to address climate change.”

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

The following are extracts from the Meath County Development Plan 2013 -2019 in respect of Renewable Energy (Section 8.1.3)

- Meath is committed to pursuing sustainable energy policies in accordance with the White Paper, ‘Towards a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland 2007-2020’. The White Paper sets out the Government’s ambitious target of 33% of electricity being produced from renewable sources by 2020. This goal was subsequently increased to 40%. As a Planning Authority, it is important to



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

recognise the range of new and developing technologies that can contribute to minimising greenhouse gas emissions and to securing a greater proportion of our energy needs from renewable sources. This document sets out a number of strategic goals which together act as a road map for the delivery of a highly efficient, competitive energy sector characterised by innovation and driven by research and technology-led development.

- Meath County Council is committed to developing a more diverse range and combination of energy sources including wind energy, micro hydro power, solar energy, bio fuels, geothermal (deep and shallow), anaerobic digestion and combined heat and power in order to deliver on the targets set down in the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) IRELAND.
- It will be an objective of the current plan that Meath County Council will investigate the potential of renewable energy identified in the initial assessment areas with a view to developing a renewable energy strategy for the County.
- Objective ECOBJ 3 To investigate the preparation of a renewable energy strategy promoting technologies which are most viable in County Meath.

The objective ECOBJ3 has not been undertaken to date as it is considered that the undertaking of a renewable energy strategy will necessitate the employment of a suitably qualified company/person. However, it is pointed out that the Council was a partner in an EU Interreg funded ‘Energy Efficiency and Micro-generation project’ in 2014 which examined the potential of geothermal energy, including warm springs in the County, and its viability as an energy source for district heating. It is suggested that the findings from this study, which highlighted the potential for both shallow and deep geothermal energy resources to be exploited, should be considered a starting point for the preparation of a renewable energy strategy for the County.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane** was noted.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“That Meath Co Council engage with all community groups to promote the launch of positive mental health week on 15th September at 12 noon in the Solstice Arts Centre, Navan.”

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** was unanimously adopted.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“That Meath Co Council write to the Minister for Finance requesting that he finally address the issue of upward only rent reviews, considering that, at present, approximately six thousand five hundred retailers are trapped in these flawed leases.”

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** was unanimously adopted.

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells

“Following on from the publication in July of the first ever National Statement of Housing Supply and Demand by the Chairman of Housing Agency Ireland, Conor Skehan, which identified the need for infrastructural supports for the delivery of housing on zoned land banks, that Meath County Council would immediately contact the Department of Environment in order to develop a plan for the provision of the required infrastructure at our land bank at Fearganstown and subsequent construction of homes on this land.”

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

The Council understands that there are ongoing discussions with the main developer on the FP2 lands in Navan regarding the development of the site including provision of the link road LDR6 (R153 Kentstown Road-Boynne Road). In March 2015, Meath Co. Council sought clarification from the principal landowner as to their ability (in terms of whether or not they had control of the lands) to deliver the extent of LDR 6 which is required to accommodate the identified Phase I lands and access the Council’s site. We understand that, whilst there has been some progress, a final agreement between all landowners in relation to the land required to deliver the road is still not yet in place. Councillors from the former Town and Navan Area will recall that the Council previously indicated its willingness to CPO the lands required for the road in order to facilitate its delivery. However, the main landowner indicated in July 2015 that their preference was still to try and broker a negotiated deal with the relevant landowners to gain control of the lands in question.

Councillors will be aware that €500,000 was included in the major capital investment programme in relation to LDR6.

It is important to note that funding under the Social Housing Strategy for the period 2015-2017, including approval for three direct construction projects has been allocated to Meath County Council. Any further direct construction projects on our land bank will be subject to approval from the Department of Environment, Community & Local



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Government and are not currently provided for under the announced allocation. Members were advised at the Special Council meeting on housing held in April 2015, that Meath County Council would continue to work with Department officials with a view to securing additional funding allocations to the County under the various capital delivery mechanisms. In this context, the Executive commits to communicating with the Department to discuss possible finance models that can be pursued in advancing the future development of the Farganstown site.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

The Cathaoirleach advised that the negotiations should be allowed to continue with a view to reaching a conclusion. The Chief Executive advised that the provision of a link road is necessary to open up the lands and that the Council has been working with the landowners to seek agreement. It was noted that the issue is still a matter for discussion with the Department.

The motion was noted.

9.5 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

“That this Council honours the first ever Meath Rose, Elysha Brennan to both enter and win the Rose of Tralee, and who will represent our county nationally and internationally. In respect of this, I propose that this Council hold a civic reception to mark Elysha's achievement and her year ahead.”

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**, was unanimously adopted.

Councillor Noel French noted his dissent regarding the motion.

9.6 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“In response to previous motions regarding anti-social behaviour, I call on Meath Co. Council to follow other Councils and introduce "bye laws on the prohibition of consumption of intoxicating liquor on roads and public places.”

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

Where it is seen fit in the interest of the common good of a local community to introduce Bye Laws prohibiting the consumption of intoxicating liquor in public places, the statutory powers are provided for in Part 19 of the Local Government Act 2001 and



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

the 2006 Bye Law Regulations and with adoption being a reserved function of the Elected Members of the Council.

Navan Town Council was one of a number of Local Authorities who adopted such Bye Laws in 2011 following the prescribed public consultation process and including extensive consultation with An Garda Síochána – following the abolition of the Town Councils these Bye Laws are now deemed to be Bye Laws under the control of Meath County Council.

While all such Bye Laws provide for implementation by “authorised persons”, the practical enforcement of them predominantly rests with the Gardaí having regard to anti social behaviour often associated with the consumption of alcohol in public places late at night and on weekends. For this reason it is suggested that any proposal to introduce such Bye Laws to other Towns in the County should first be the subject of discussion with the Gardaí and it is considered that the appropriate forum for this would be the Joint Policing Committee, the first meeting of which is scheduled for the 17th September.

It is pointed out that the Meath Parks and Playgrounds Bye Laws adopted in 2014 makes it an offence for persons to:

“Have in their possession, in a park, for the purpose of supply or consumption any alcohol, save with the permission in writing of the Council and subject to such conditions as the Council may prescribe. No person shall have in their possession, for the purpose of consumption any alcohol except in an area designated by the Council for that purpose.”

Following a debate on the matter, the motion, proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade** was unanimously adopted.

9.7 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Keogan

"I call on Meath County Council to initiate plans to connect a roadway between the Business Park/The City North Hotel with the village of Stamullen and its residents."

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

The County Development Plan 2013-2019 has provided the planning basis for a plan led approach consistent with the National Roads and Spatial Planning Guidelines for a road to connect the Business Park/The City North Hotel with the village of Stamullen and associated junction upgrades. The policy platform will be further supported in the proposed variation to the Development Plan to incorporate the Economic Strategy. Meath Co. Council (in co-operation with Transport Infrastructure Ireland) stand ready to



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

assist with any upgrade proposals to improve the capacity of the junction to facilitate the development of the adjoining employment lands. However, it is a matter for the relevant developers to bring forward detailed plans for the roads and junction upgrades, provide any lands required and ultimately construct and/or fund the delivery of same.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, advised that the objective is already in the County Development Plan. It was noted that the road would have to be developer driven and he recalled that a landowner who was proposing to develop was refused planning permission for the road by An Bord Pleanála.

The motion was noted.

9.8 Submitted by Councillor David Gilroy

"To ask Meath Co. Council to explore the possibility to require all restaurants or other business engaged in food take away to carry the name of the business clearly on all of its packaging."

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

The motion suggests an initiative to create an awareness amongst proprietors of food premises and particularly fast food premises of the nature, extent and impact of litter being generated from their premises.

Take-away / fast food outlets are a source of litter pollution and where such litter defaces our footpaths, streets, parks and waterways and often stifling community efforts of Tidy Towns and other such groups who work diligently to ensure a clean and natural environment in their area.

While the vast majority of our citizens are actively committed to the prevention and eradication of litter from our community, the actions of a small few, and particularly at weekends often generate very negative impressions of our larger towns and place a significant fiscal burden on Council finances and resources in street sweeping, emptying litter bins etc.

As the Members will be aware, a Draft Litter Management Plan for County Meath for 2015-2017 was recently on public display as part of the statutory consultation process and this contains a series of objectives and targets, one of which involves working closely with business proprietors in tackling litter.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Such collaboration which will be driven by the Council's Education and Awareness Officers will focus on the responsibilities of such proprietors in keeping the areas around their premises litter free. It is hoped to replicate recent successes achieved with business owners in Ashbourne in this regard in other large towns. Any measures which serve to eradicate the litter problem will be considered including working with fast food and other litter generating type business in having all packaging clearly bearing the name and address of their premises.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor David Gilroy** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan**.

Following a lengthy debate, the motion was noted and referred to the Environment Department to be considered in the development of the Draft Litter Management Plan.

9.9 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole

"That the Executive and Members of this County Council recognise the importance of and will, at the earliest possible juncture, seek to appoint a Community Development Worker/ Officer assisted in their role, by a Youth Development worker/officer."

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.

The positions of Community Development Worker/Officer or Youth Development Worker/Officer have not been included the workforce planning process to date. Expertise in the areas of Community and Youth Development exist within a number of Council Departments e.g. the Community and Housing Departments.

As well as the above, 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 Community and Youth Development Workers/Officers at this time.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Following a debate on the matter, Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, advised regarding the difficulty in getting approval to create such positions. The motion was noted.

9.10 Submitted by Sinn Féin Councillors

That Meath County Council:

- understands that elected members have the authority to increase or reduce the local property tax rate by up to 15% each year

- recognises that there is an ever-worsening housing crisis in the county at this time

- commits, as an act of emergency, to increase housing funding in 2016 by an amount not less than the equivalent of 15% of the local property tax collected, this being in addition to the 2015 estimated housing expenditure outturn. / Go dtuigeann Comhairle Chontae na Mí:

-go bhfuil sé i gcumhacht na mball tofa méidiú nó ísliú 15% a dhéanamh ar an ráta cáin mhaoine áitiúil gach bliain

-go n-aithnítear Comhairle Chontae na Mí go bhfuil géarchéim tithíochta ag dul i gcónaí in olcas ann sa chontae faoi láthair.

-go ndeimhniúnn Comhairle Chontae na Mí, mar chás eigeandála, an maoiniú tithíochta a mhéidiú i 2016 faoi mhéid ní ba lú ná 15% den cháin mhaoine áitiúil bailithe, é sin anuas ar tháirgreacht chaiteachas mheasta tithíochta 2015.

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

This matter should be considered in the context of the resolution on Local Property Tax for 2016 which will be considered at a Council meeting to be held before the end of September, and also in the context of the Statutory Budget for 2016, which is to be concluded by the end of November.

See Item 5.2.1

9.11 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

“That Meath County Council, noting the failure of broadband providers to adequately respond to requests by the Strategic Policy Committee on Planning and Economic Development, commits to renew efforts, through the Department of Communications and Government TDs, to convene a dedicated meeting in order to begin addressing the broadband deficit in Meath, same to include all relevant stakeholders and to take place



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

before November 1st 2015. / Go dtiomnaíonn Comhairle Chontae na Mí, aird tugtha do theip soláthreoirí leathanbhanda freagra leor a thabhairt d'iarratais an Choiste um Beartais Straitéiseacha um Pleanáil agus Forbairt Gheilleagrach, d'iarrachtaí athnuaithe, tríd an Roinn Cumarsáide agus Teachtaí Dála an rialtais, cruinniú tiomnaithe a chur le chéile ionas go ndéanfar plé ar easpa leathanbhanda i gContae na Mí, agus go mbeidh na páirtithe leasmhara ábhartha go léir ina measc, ba chóir an cruinniú a reachtáil roimh an 1 Samhain 2015.

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

The Planning & Enterprise SPC will consider this issue at their next meeting scheduled for 23rd September.

Contact has been made with a number of providers and all are open to a meeting on the issue at a time and date to be agreed. In addition, the Council has invited a representative from the Department of Communications to attend an SPC meeting to update the committee on progress on the delivery of the National Broadband Plan and to outline ways in which Local Authorities can assist with implementation. It is hoped to have this presentation at the November meeting of the SPC. It may be more appropriate to have this presentation in advance of meeting the providers and therefore I would ask the Council not to tie the hands of the SPC by specifying a date to meet as requested in the motion.

In summary the actions specified in the motion are being addressed at present under the auspices of the SPC.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan**, was noted.

9.12 Submitted by the Fianna Fáil Councillors

'That this Council resolves that the 1916 proclamation should hang in a place of prominence in the entrance of every council building and each Municipal Council building and that the national flag is to be flown on all these aforementioned Council buildings on St Patrick's Day, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday.'

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

Immediate arrangements will be made, where necessary, for the procurement and display of copies of the 1916 proclamation, for prominent display at the relevant council buildings. Appropriate arrangements for the flying of the national flag at our civic



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

buildings, in 2016, will be made in accordance with the relevant national and local protocols and the guidelines governing the 1916 centenary celebrations.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Claire O' Driscoll** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Drew**.

Councillor O' Driscoll proposed a slight amendment i.e. to insert 'Council Headquarters' instead of 'Council building.' The amendment was seconded by **Councillor Seán Drew** and the motion was unanimously adopted.

9.13 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

"Can I call on the support of my fellow Councillors to fully support my motion of no confidence in the Minister for mental health Kathleen Lynch, regarding the proposed downgrading of acute psychiatric services 24/7 at Our Lady's Hospital, Navan, for our patients and public living in Navan and Co. Meath, and a letter of this effect be sent to Minister Kathleen Lynch, and all Meath Oireachtas Members, and I am calling on the Minister to reverse this disgraceful proposal, for patient care and safety."

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

Following a debate on the matter, the Cathaoirleach proposed an amendment to the motion, which was seconded by **Councillor Forde** as follows:

"Can I call on the support of my fellow Councillors to fully support my motion regarding the proposed downgrading of acute psychiatric services 24/7 at Our Lady's Hospital, Navan, for our patients and public living in Navan and Co. Meath, and a letter to this effect be sent to Minister Kathleen Lynch, and all Meath Oireachtas Members, to instruct the HSE to reverse this proposal, for patient care and safety."

The amended motion was unanimously adopted.

9.14 Submitted by Councillor Joe Fox

"With the hedge cutting season now starting I am calling on landowners, farmers and householders in rural areas to ensure that their roadside hedges are cut and maintained so that motorists, cyclists and pedestrians can travel safely on our rural roads."

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



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Meath County Council is publishing a notice in local newspapers in September reminding all landowners and occupiers of property adjacent to public roads of the importance of maintaining trees and hedges.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** was unanimously adopted.

9.15 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy

"That Meath County Council calls on the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to prepare a feasibility study of the costs involved to have the M1, M3 & M4 toll free for night time hours during the months from October to March."

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** was unanimously adopted.

9.16 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

"That Meath County Council notes with concern reports from residents that Irish Water has instructed workers to refuse to carry out works on "private site" water and waste water infrastructure, regardless if this relates to primary mains or not; recognises this as a major decrease in service provided compared to that offered by the local authority heretofore; further recognises this as evidence that Irish Water is not fit for purpose; and calls for Irish Water and water charges to be scrapped. / Go dtugann Comhairle Chontae na Mí dá h-aire le h-imní tuairiscí ó chónaitheoirí gur ordaigh Uisce Éireann d'oibrithe gan obair a dhéanamh ar bhonneagar uisce agus dramhuisce ar thalamh príobháideach, fiú má bhaineann sé leis na príomhlíonra uisce. Go dtugtar aird do sin mar ghearradh siar tromchúiseach ar sheirbhísí curtha ar fáil i gcomparáid leo siúd a chuireadh ar fáil ag an rialtas áitiúil roimhe sin; anuas ar sin go aithnítear sin mar fhianaise narbh fiú d'Uisce Éireann; agus go n-áirítear go gcuirfear críoch le Uisce Éireann agus muirir uisce."

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Darren O' Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**.

Following a debate on the matter it was agreed on the proposal of the **Cathaoirleach**, seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner** to invite Gerry Boyle, Senior Engineer, to provide an update at the October meeting.

The motion was noted.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

9.17 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher

“That the elected members of Meath County Council support the call by thousands of dedicated GAA members and supporters that, when next up for consideration, the GAA ensure that all All-Ireland championship matches are available to view free-to-air on terrestrial television / Go dtacaíonn ionadaithe tofa Chomhairle Chontae na Mí leis na mílte leanúnaí agus ball tiomnaithe CLG chun, ag an gcéad uair eile a ndéanfar cinneadh, go gcinnteoidh an CLG go mbeidh cluichí ceannais na hÉireann ar fáil soar in aisce ar theilifís trastíre.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O’ Rourke**.

Following a debate on the matter, **Councillor Trevor Golden** proposed an amendment to the motion i.e. to insert the words ‘*island of Ireland*’ instead of ‘*terrestrial television*.’

The amendment was seconded by **Councillor Gallagher** and the motion was unanimously adopted.

9.18 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde

Can I call on the support of my fellow councillors, that in preparation for the 2016 budget, to obtain a yearly rebate of 5 % from the local property tax (LPT) from Meath county council towards the maintenance and upkeep of our own housing estates, with regard to grass cutting, litter control, shrubs and flower beds, community events, improvement works and insurance cover.”

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

This matter should be considered in the context of the resolution on Local Property Tax for 2016, which will be considered at a Council meeting to be held before the end of September, and also in the context of the Statutory Budget for 2016, which is to be concluded by the end of November.

See item 5.2.1

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



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

10.3 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Housing Construction

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

Noted by the Councillors.

11 Presentations by other Bodies/Statutory Agencies

11.1 To receive presentation from the Battle of Ashbourne Commemoration Committee.

Tola Collier and representatives from the Battle of Ashbourne Committee made a presentation to the Councillors on the historical detail of the Battle of Ashbourne, 1916. The presentation was noted and the Cathaoirleach thanked the representatives for their presentation.

11.2 To receive update from the County Coordinator on commemorative activities in 2016.

Ciarán Mangan, County Librarian and County Coordinator of the 2016 programme of activities provided an update and informed that the call for applications for the Community Participation Strand funding of €60,000 opened on the 31st. August and that the closing date was 25th September. It was noted that, following assessment of the applications, the recommendations for funding would be brought for approval to the Protocol Committee and the full Council at the October meeting. It was also noted that funding would be allocated on completion of projects/works.

12 Any Other Business