



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

### *Ordinary Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> October 2010, Council Chamber*

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Ann Dillon-Gallagher presided.

#### **Members Present:**

Councillors Joseph Bonner, Ray Butler, Sirena Campbell, William Carey, Shane Cassells, Eugene Cassidy, Jimmy Cudden, Francis Deane, Regina Doherty, John V Farrelly, Jimmy Fegan, Brian Fitzgerald, Oliver Fox, Wayne Harding, Eoin Holmes, Suzanne Jamal, Nick Killian, Noel Leonard, Tracy McElhinney, Niamh McGowan, Jenny McHugh, Maria Murphy, Seamus O'Neill, Bryan Reilly, Jim Holloway, Tommy Reilly, Catherine Yore.

#### **Officials in Attendance:**

**County Manager** Tom Dowling

**Directors of Service:** Tadhg McDonnell, Kevin Stewart, Eugene Cummins, Brendan McGrath, Fiona Lawless.

**Meetings Administrator** Martin Rogers

**Senior Executive Officers:** Larry Whelan, Ger Murphy (Acting)

**Administrative Officer:** Olive Falsey

**Apologies:** Councillor Joe Reilly

#### **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

Confirmation of Minutes of monthly meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

The minutes of monthly meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

#### **2.0 Matters arising from the minutes**

Councillor Tommy Reilly raised the matter of the provision of a school for Johnstown and the Councillors' concern that no school has been delivered for the area. An update was requested and it was suggested that a delegation should meet with the Department of Education and Skills.

#### **3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended to:

- Councillor Joe Reilly on the death of his partner.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Skryne, Nobber and Ballinabrackey GAA clubs on their recent success.
- Community and Enterprise Department on Pride of Place Awards Ceremony
- Castletown on winning the overall Pride of Place Award.
- Meath Civil Defence on hosting the All Ireland Competitions in Gormanston.
- Meath Co. Council on winning the Local Authority Sector Award at the NISO / NISG Occupational Safety Awards, 2010



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### **4.0 Correspondence**

- 4.1 Correspondence from National Roads Authority Circular No. 16/2010 re Winter Service Arrangements 2010/2011.  
Eugene Cummins, Director of Services informed the Council that routes have been agreed through the SPC and that winter maintenance plans are being formulated. There will be adequate salt supplies with additional supplies for the local road network and the smaller towns not covered by the agreed routes. The opening of the M3 has extended the network and the list of routes will be published on the website.
- 4.2 Correspondence from Minister for Transport, Noel Dempsey, re Navan Hospital. Councillors expressed concern regarding the contents of the response and agreed that a meeting with the Minister should be arranged as soon as possible so that the Minister would have an opportunity to hear the views of the Councillors.
- 4.3 Meath Communities On-Line  
The restoration of this service was highlighted as being very important to the Community Groups who had invested a lot of time gathering information and uploading it on their sites.

### **5.0 E.U. Correspondence**

### **6.0 CPG Report**

The CPG proposed that the Special Meeting scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> October on the Tara Skryne Landscape Conservation Area be deferred until the discussion process with the Members is fully completed. Members expressed concern at the manner in which Meath co. Council Planning Staff were treated at the recent information evening. The Co. Manager advised that as Meath is the heritage capital of Ireland, it is important that the Council ensures that the interests and heritage of the county is protected. He further advised that more time may need to be given to provide further information and briefings so that a quality decision is made. It was agreed to accept the recommendation from the CPG.

### **7.0 Report from Protocol Committee**

#### **7.1 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games**

The Cathaoirleach advised the Members of her, and the County Manager's, forthcoming plan to visit the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games taking place this month in Kentucky where County Meath will be represented on the Ireland Stand. Councillors expressed their support for the trip and agreed that it was a unique opportunity for Co. Meath to be showcased at this event with over 850,000 visitors expected from 58 countries.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Willie Carey** and seconded by **Councillor Noel Leonard**.

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



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### 9.0 Other Statutory Business

#### 8.1 Infrastructure

- 8.1.1 To receive and approve Multi-Annual Non National Road Works Restoration Programme 2011-2013.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Noel Leonard** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

- 8.1.2 To enter into an Agreement pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 with Navan Town Council whereby Meath County Council will exercise the powers, functions and duties of both Councils in relation to the maintenance, design, procurement and construction of Public Lighting Infrastructure within the administrative Area of Navan Town Council.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Jim Holloway** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

- 8.1.3 To enter into an Agreement pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 with Kells Town Council whereby Meath County Council will exercise the powers, functions and duties of both Councils in relation to the maintenance, design, procurement and construction of Public Lighting Infrastructure within the administrative Area of Kells Town Council.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Catherine Yore** and seconded by **Councillor Oliver Fox**.

#### 8.2 Environment

- 8.2.1 To receive a briefing report on Meath County Council Fire Service Strategic Plan.

The Members received a presentation by Murty Hanley on the Strategic Plan for Meath Co. Council Fire Service 2009-2014. Brendan McGrath DOS, advised that the Plan had been presented to the SPC.

#### 8.3 Corporate Services

- 8.3.1 To consider and if thought fit to make the Polling Scheme in accordance with the Draft and subject to such amendments as is considered proper. The Scheme to come into operation on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

A Report was provided to the Members who noted that this matter had been considered by the Town and Area Councils.

On the proposal of **Councillor Noel Leonard** and seconded by **Councillor Ray Butler** the Polling Scheme was made in accordance with the Draft, as published, subject to the amendments set out in the schedule to the Report.



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- 8.3.2 To receive presentation on The Efficiency Review of Local Government.

Brendan McGrath made a presentation on the above and outlined that this report, if and when implemented, will have a significant impact on services delivered. Councillors welcomed the report and complimented the staff, on the way work is managed given the staffing numbers.

### **8.4 Housing, Social Community & Cultural**

- 8.4.1 To consider the Bi-Annual Arts Grant Phase 2 recommendations 2010.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

- 8.4.2 To receive a Draft Anti Social Behaviour Strategy prepared in accordance with Section 35 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 in respect of the prevention and reduction of Anti Social Behaviour in the Housing Stock of Meath County Council, and Navan, Kells & Trim Town Councils. (Report to follow).

Received and noted that Strategy must be adopted by 30<sup>th</sup> November.

### **8.5 Finance**

- 8.5.1 To receive Financial update.

Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance presented an update to the Members and informed that despite operating in a very difficult economic climate, it was projected that Meath County Council will have a balanced budget for the full year 2010.

## **10.0 Notice of Question**

- 9.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane:

*“I ask the County Manager to provide information pertaining to the emergency plans that are in place should the County undergo a repeat of the arctic conditions experienced last winter. In particular can he confirm (a) the plans for dealing with local and regional roads as well as footpaths (b) the salt stocks to be held at the Salt Barn in Navan and (c) the Council’s estimate of a 10 day supply of salt”.*

Eugene Cummins replied to the question as per 4.1

## **10.0 Notice of Motion**

- 10.1 Submitted by Councillor Regina Doherty:

*“That this Council introduces a Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme for our main tourist routes and also the entrances into our towns and villages”.*

It was outlined that preliminary work on developing this project has already been undertaken and that there are a number of issues to be examined. It was agreed that the matter would be addressed through the SPC and a report would be brought back to the Council with a view to implementation of a scheme in 2011.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Regina Doherty** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**, was adopted.



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10.2 Submitted by Councillor Tracy McElhinney:

*“This Council calls on the Manager to deal sympathetically with those small and struggling businesses who are now facing financial penalties arising from the actions of the National Roads Authority in relation to advertising on mobile units along major routes in the County of Meath and to investigate appropriate locations for such signage that would assist business and the protection of jobs in the community”.*

The discussion focused on the growing problem of ‘advertising litter’, the need for businesses to advertise and the need for consistency across the County.

The system of obtaining permission for directional signage was explained and it was agreed that the SPC would present clarification on consistency in terms of licensing and granting of permission for signage.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Tracy McElhinney** and seconded by **Councillor Willie Carey**, was noted.

10.3 Submitted by Slane Area Members:

*“That Meath County Council in conjunction with the O.P.W. provides a children’s playground at the Battle of the Boyne site at Oldbridge, Co Meath.*

It was submitted, that given the significance of the site to Northern Ireland, that the OPW’s counterpart in N.I. could assist with the funding of the project.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Ann Dillon-Gallagher**, was adopted.

### **11.0 Schedule of Manager’s Orders (For Information Only)**

11.1 Schedule of Manager’s Orders - Infrastructure

11.2 Schedule of Manager’s Orders - Environment

11.3 Schedule of Manager’s Orders – Housing Construction

11.4 Schedule of Manager’s Orders – Community & Enterprise

Noted.

### **12.0 Presentations from Other Bodies**

### **13.0 Any Other Business**