



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting 1st November 2010, Council Chamber

An Leas - Cathaoirleach, Councillor Shane Cassells, presided.

Members Present:

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

Senior Executive Planner: Pat Gallagher

Other Officials: Lara Fagan, Eamon Lynch, David Muldoon, Michelle Whelan, James Brennan

Apologies: An Cathaoirleach Councillor Ann Dillon –Gallagher.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

- 1.1 **Confirmation of minutes of Monthly meeting held on 4th October 2010.**
The minutes were confirmed on proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Bryan Reilly**.
- 1.2 **Confirmation of minutes of special meeting with Minister Dempsey held on 8th October 2010 re Navan Hospital.**
The minutes were confirmed on proposal of **Councillor Noel Leonard** and seconded by **Councillor John V. Farrelly** subject to the addition of Councillor Bryan Reilly to the “Members Present” list and replacing of Councillor Shane Cassells name with Councillor Ann Dillon-Gallagher in the “Apologies” list.

2.0 Matters arising from the minutes

Suspension of Standing Orders

Standing orders were suspended on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** seconded by **Councillor Willie Carey** to allow discussion on a recent decision of An Bord Pleanála to refuse permission for a major development at Clonmagadden, Navan.

Councillor John V. Farrelly declared an interest in the development and advised that



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he had been involved in putting the land together.

A number of points were made by the Members included the following:

- Navan was identified as a primary growth centre and required jobs and development. This decision could have an affect on the growth of the town.
- Decisions of MCC being overturned by the Board send out the wrong signal when the Council is doing its utmost to encourage investment in the county.
- This decision was another one in a series of refusals that the Board had been responsible for in respect of development for County Meath.

The County Manager advised that the Board's decision had only been received in the past few days and he would ask the planning department to examine the decision and the inspectors report and in particular look at the reasons given for refusal by the Board.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Vivian Hoey, Housing Department on the death of his father.

Councillor Joe Reilly expressed thanks to the Members for their sympathy and support on the death of his partner.

It was agreed by the Members that a letter of sympathy would be sent to Minister Micheal Martin on the death of his daughter.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Meath Partnership
- The large numbers who turned up for the Hospital rally.

4.0 Correspondence

4.1 Correspondence from Iarnrod Eireann

Members noted this correspondence. Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, advised that Iarnrod Eireann was proposing to hold a series of public information evenings on the Navan Commuter Rail Project towards the end of November. He indicated that in advance of these information evenings IE would hold a special briefing for the Members.

4.2 Correspondence from DEHLG re Request for submissions on proposed new inspection and monitoring systems for Septic Tanks and other WW Treatment Systems.



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Following a discussion on this matter it was agreed to hold a meeting of the Environment SPC to consider this matter further.

5.0 E.U. Correspondence

5.1 EU News Bulletin – Number 74 – September 2010.

Correspondence was noted.

6.0 Report from Protocol Committee

It was noted that Councillor John V. Farrelly as outgoing Chair of Eastern Border Region Committee had obtained an invitation for the Members of the Council to visit Stormont on Monday 22nd November next. It was agreed that Members would contact the Whips or the Meeting Administrator to confirm attendance over the next week or so.

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

8.0 Other Statutory Business

8.1 Infrastructure

8.1.1 To receive an update on the 2010 Roads Programme and other current Transportation Projects.

Eugene Cummins, Director of Services, made a presentation and updated the Members on the projects and activities in the Transportation Directorate. Members were advised that the presentation was for information only and that any local issues arising could be brought to the Area meetings for discussion.

8.1.2 To enter in to an Agreement pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 with Trim 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 Trim Town Council.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Ray Butler** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.



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8.2 Planning

8.2.1 To consider and if thought fit the taking in charge of the following

Estates:

(As recommended by the Members of Dunshaughlin Electoral Area at their meeting of the 11th October 2010)

(1) Johnswood – Ashbourne

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

(2) Moulden Bridge – Ratoath

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Regina Doherty**.

(3) Coill Beag – Ratoath

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Niamh McGowan** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

8.3 Environment

8.3.1 To consider and if thought fit to adopt “Meath County Council

Corporate Climate Change Strategy 2009-2012”.

Lara Fagan E.E. made a presentation which set out the strategy of the Council over the period. Brendan McGrath, Director of Services, advised the Members that due to its importance (despite limited staff) resources had to be assigned to this area. Members were fully supportive of the proposals and resolved to adopt the Strategy on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** seconded by **Councillor John V. Farrelly**. It was noted that the Climate Change Strategy was to be launched on the 15th November and it was hoped that as many as possible Members would attend.

8.4 Economic Development & Innovation

8.4.1 To receive presentation on Tourism Initiatives (Including Solheim Cup Promotion).

Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, and Michelle Whelan, Tourism Officer made presentations on Tourism Initiatives and Developments including an update on the Solheim Cup event. Members indicated they



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were very supportive of the great work being done in this area despite the difficult economic times.

On the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly** it was agreed to extend the meeting time to 6.30pm.

8.5 Housing, Social Community & Cultural

8.5.1 To approve funding allocations to community groups/organisations under the 2010 Meath County Council / Knockharley Landfill Community Liaison Committee – Environmental Community Projects & Works Scheme(s) in respect of applications received and as recommended by the Navan Electoral Area Committee and Knockharley Landfill Community Liaison Committee.

Approved on proposal of **Councillor Jim Holloway** and seconded by

Councillor Tommy Reilly.

8.5.2 To consider and if thought fit to resolve to adopt the 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).

It was agreed to defer this to the December meeting. It was noted that a number of submissions had been received which would be considered by the SPC and the matter would then revert back to the full Council.

8.6 Finance

8.6.1 To receive Audit Report for 2009

The Report was noted

8.6.2 To receive audited Annual Financial Statement for 2009.

The Report was noted

8.6.3 To agree dates for the holding of 2011 Budget Meetings.

The following meeting dates were agreed:

Preliminary Budget **Monday 29th November 2010 at 2.00pm**



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Statutory Budget **Thursday 9th December 2010 at 9.00am**

9.0 Notice of Question

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane:

“I call on Meath County Council to provide information with regard to Health and Safety issues that may arise pertaining to derelict sites and land banks in County Meath which are now under the control of the National Asset Management Agency (NAMA). As ownership of many such properties have been transferred from private possession to NAMA and given the uniqueness of such events I wish to seek clarification on this matter”.

A written response by Ger Murphy, A/SEO, to this Notice of Question was provided.

10.0 Notice of Motion

10.1 Submitted by Councillors Tommy Reilly & Shane Cassells

“We call on Meath County Council to acknowledge the huge demand and urgent need for a primary school, secondary school and St Mary’s Special school to be located within the lands identified as LAP 1 in the Navan Town Development Plan.

We support the provision of these schools within these lands as they will promote the objectives set out in the Government’s land use transportation policy, Smarter Travel, due to the close proximity of the populations (both existing and proposed) they are intended to serve having regard to the existing availability of walking and cycling routes from the surrounding residential areas to the LAP 1 lands.

We ask the Manage to update the Council on the timeframe for the provision of a school(s) in this location”.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Tommy Reilly seconded by Councillor Jenny McHugh and was then discussed.

A report from Michael Griffin SEO Planning Department was circulated to the meeting. A lengthy debate ensued and issues raised included the following:

- The existing school conditions at St. Stephens were not adequate or appropriate
- The decision awaited on planning application for school in Johnstown area
- The need for school accommodation in Johnstown was great yet no progress made to date
- The money spent on leasing and refurbishment was not value for money
- There was no recognisable sign that there was meaningful co-operation between the Department of Education and Meath County Council
- The access to discussion with Department officials was difficult
- The motion was aimed at wrong body



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- The need to draw agencies together to deliver the necessary schools
- The delays in the delivery of the LAP

The County Manager responded that the Council has no statutory responsibility in the delivery of schools, this was a matter for the Department of Education and Skills. He continued that he could not accept that there was no meaningful cooperation between the Council and the Department as there have been numerous discussions and regular contact between the parties. He advised that if the Council are asked to assist in land acquisition it will do and would be prepared to use its CPO powers if necessary. He further advised that the Council has indicated that they have land in the area which they could offer (subject to Section 183 disposal) to the Department if there are difficulties in acquiring a site.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Joe Reilly seconded by John V. Farrelly that the Council would seek an urgent meeting with the Minister for Education & Skills (and senior officials) to discuss the educational needs of Navan.

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

The Schedules of Manager's Orders were noted.

12.0 Presentations from Other Bodies

There were no presentations.

13.0 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

NB Please ensure Mobile phones are switched off during council meeting.