



## *Miontuairiscí/Meeting Minutes*

### **Statutory Budget Meeting**

**24<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 - 3.00p.m. Council Chamber**

**An Cathaoirleach**, Councillor Jim Holloway, presided.

#### **Members Present:**

Councillors Joe Bonner, Sinéad Burke, Shane Cassells, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Seán Drew, Eimear Ferguson, Brian Fitzgerald, Enda Flynn, Wayne Forde, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Trevor Golden, Johnny Guirke, Wayne Harding, 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, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Seán Smith, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole.

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

**Chief Executive:** Jackie Maguire

**Directors of Service:** Kevin Stewart, Fiona Lawless, Tadhg McDonnell, Des Foley, Joe Fahy (A).

**Meetings Administrator** Olive Falsey

**Senior Executive Officers:** Michael Griffin, Larry Whelan,

**Finance Staff:** Paul Timoney, Sheila Harkin, Michael Murtagh, Ger Soady.

1. To consider the Draft Budget circulated herewith for the Financial Year on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015.

The Cathaoirleach opened the meeting and he called on Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, who recapped on some of the figures presented in the draft budget and the proposed expenditure of over €97m. across the eight programme groups.

It was explained that the benefits of the Council's decision to retain the Local Property Tax at its current rate had enabled the Council to make financial provision in the Budget for new items of expenditure as follows:

- Economic Development and implementation of the actions to be agreed in the Council's Economic Strategy - €300,000
- Planned programme of road and footpath improvements in Housing Estates - €300,000
- Municipal District General Municipal Allocation - €480,000
- Recruitment of additional outdoor staff – approximate cost €300,000
- Land Aggregation Loan repayments - €1.4m.
- The provision of €200,000 for the introduction of the Small Business Support Scheme



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- Homeless Services has increased by €50,000
- Mobility Aids Housing Grants has increased by €200,000 to a total budget in 2015 of €1.2m.
- The Gateway Scheme has been provided for under the Urban and Village Renewal Programme with approximately 80 outdoor workers in 2015 across the Municipal Districts.
- Direct support for Heritage Services has increased by 6% to a total of €217,000.
- Recovery and Recycling Facilities have increased by €124,000 which will enable an expansion of services including hazardous waste from small businesses, new initiatives in terms of education and awareness and opening hours will increase by 11%.
- An additional €30,000 for purchase of Library Books has been made, being an increase of 25%.

The Chief Executive outlined that the main objective in framing the 2015 Budget had been to maintain the existing level of services and make increased or new provisions in a number of areas. The Chief Executive thanked the Cathaoirleach, the members of the CPG and the elected Councillors for their input into the Draft Budget and recommended the Budget for adoption.

Following the Chief Executive's address, Councillors were given an opportunity for questions and comments.

The main issues raised and responded to by the Head of Finance and the Management Team included:

- The need for additional outdoor staff and additional support for community volunteers.
- Issues regarding Broadband availability across the County.
- The need for additional funding for homelessness.
- The roadworks programme and road conditions in North Meath.
- Issues regarding Paid Parking in Kells and Navan.
- The need for more recycling facilities across the County.
- The need for more playgrounds in the towns and villages.
- The current situation regarding the Council's loans and bad debts.
- The current situation regarding the Land Aggregation Scheme.
- The need for a Beach Warden and a Beach Management Plan.
- Reduction of allowances for Chairs of Municipal Districts.

### **Motion 1.**

**Councillor Gerry O' Connor** proposed, seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** that *"the €600,000 (NPPR) funding would be divided as follows: €150,000 to Ashbourne, Ratoath and Laytown/Bettystown and €50,000 to Kells, Trim and Navan."*



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An amendment to the motion was proposed by **Councillor Sean Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Shane Cassells**.

Amended Motion:

*“That the €600,000 (NPPR) funding would be divided equally among the six Municipal Districts.”*

A vote on the amended motion was called as follows:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Cllr. Joseph Bonner		Against		
Cllr Sinead Burke	For			
Cllr. Shane Cassells	For			
Cllr. Eugene Cassidy		Against		
Cllr. Francis Deane		Against		
Cllr Sean Drew	For			
Cllr. Eimear Ferguson	For			
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald		Against		
Cllr. Enda Flynn		Against		
Cllr. Wayne Forde		Against		
Cllr. Joe Fox		Against		
Cllr. Noel French		Against		
Cllr. Michael Gallagher	For			
Cllr. David Gilroy		Against		
Cllr. Trevor Golden		Against		
Cllr. Johnny Guirke	For			
Cllr. Wayne Harding		Against		
Cllr. James Holloway		Against		
Cllr. Suzanne Jamal		Against		
Cllr. Tom Kelly		Against		
Cllr. Sharon Keogan		Against		
Cllr. Nick Killian		Against		
Cllr. Caroline Lynch	For			
Cllr. Stephen McKee		Against		
Cllr. Ronan McKenna	For			
Cllr. Paddy Meade		Against		
Cllr. Maria Murphy		Against		
Cllr. Gerry O’ Connor		Against		
Cllr. Claire O’ Driscoll		Against		
Cllr. Maria O’ Kane	For			



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Cllr. Damien O' Reilly		Against		
Cllr. Darren O' Rourke	For			
Cllr. Bryan Reilly	For			
Cllr. Joe Reilly	For			
Cllr. Sarah Reilly		Against		
Cllr. Tommy Reilly	For			
Cllr. Sean Smith		Against		
Cllr. Alan Tobin		Against		
Cllr. Sharon Tolan		Against		
Cllr. Gillian Toole		Against		
<b>Result</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27</b>		

The motion was defeated

Following the defeat of the motion, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the original motion i.e. *'That the €600,000 (NPPR) funding would be divided as follows: €150,000 to Ashbourne, Ratoath and Laytown/Bettystown and €50,000 to Kells, Trim and Navan.'*

**Councillor Claire O' Driscoll** requested that her dissatisfaction with the degree of penalties imposed regarding the NPPR tax would be noted.

### Motion 2.

**Councillor Darren O' Rourke** proposed a motion, seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**, that *'no monies from the Local Property Tax would be used for the Land Aggregation Scheme.'*

An amendment to the motion was proposed by **Councillor Sean Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Shane Cassells**.

*'That the interest only element regarding the Land Aggregation Scheme would be included in the Budget.'*

A vote on the amended motion was called as follows:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Cllr. Joseph Bonner		Against		
Cllr Sinead Burke	For			
Cllr. Shane Cassells	For			
Cllr. Eugene Cassidy		Against		
Cllr. Francis Deane		Against		
Cllr Sean Drew	For			
Cllr. Eimear Ferguson	For			
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald		Against		



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Cllr. Enda Flynn		Against		
Cllr. Wayne Forde		Against		
Cllr. Joe Fox		Against		
Cllr. Noel French		Against		
Cllr. Michael Gallagher	For			
Cllr. David Gilroy		Against		
Cllr. Trevor Golden		Against		
Cllr. Johnny Guirke	For			
Cllr. Wayne Harding	For			
Cllr. James Holloway		Against		
Cllr. Suzanne Jamal		Against		
Cllr. Tom Kelly		Against		
Cllr. Sharon Keogan		Against		
Cllr. Nick Killian		Against		
Cllr. Caroline Lynch	For			
Cllr. Stephen McKee	For			
Cllr. Ronan McKenna	For			
Cllr. Paddy Meade		Against		
Cllr. Maria Murphy		Against		
Cllr. Gerry O' Connor		Against		
Cllr. Claire O' Driscoll	For			
Cllr. Maria O' Kane	For			
Cllr. Damien O' Reilly	For			
Cllr. Darren O' Rourke	For			
Cllr. Bryan Reilly	For			
Cllr. Joe Reilly	For			
Cllr. Sarah Reilly		Against		
Cllr. Tommy Reilly	For			
Cllr. Sean Smith	For			
Cllr. Alan Tobin		Against		
Cllr. Sharon Tolan		Against		
Cllr. Gillian Toole		Against		
<b>Result</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>		

The motion was defeated.

A vote on the original motion was called as follows:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
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Cllr. Joseph Bonner		Against		
Cllr Sinead Burke	For			
Cllr. Shane Cassells	For			
Cllr. Eugene Cassidy		Against		
Cllr. Francis Deane		Against		
Cllr Sean Drew	For			
Cllr. Eimear Ferguson	For			
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald		Against		
Cllr. Enda Flynn		Against		
Cllr. Wayne Forde		Against		
Cllr. Joe Fox		Against		
Cllr. Noel French		Against		
Cllr. Michael Gallagher	For			
Cllr. David Gilroy		Against		
Cllr. Trevor Golden		Against		
Cllr. Johnny Guirke	For			
Cllr. Wayne Harding	For			
Cllr. James Holloway		Against		
Cllr. Suzanne Jamal		Against		
Cllr. Tom Kelly		Against		
Cllr. Sharon Keogan		Against		
Cllr. Nick Killian		Against		
Cllr. Caroline Lynch	For			
Cllr. Stephen McKee	For			
Cllr. Ronan McKenna	For			
Cllr. Paddy Meade		Against		
Cllr. Maria Murphy		Against		
Cllr. Gerry O' Connor		Against		
Cllr. Claire O' Driscoll	For			
Cllr. Maria O' Kane	For			
Cllr. Damien O' Reilly	For			
Cllr. Darren O' Rourke	For			
Cllr. Bryan Reilly	For			
Cllr. Joe Reilly	For			
Cllr. Sarah Reilly		Against		
Cllr. Tommy Reilly	For			



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<b>Cllr. Sean Smith</b>	<b>For</b>			
<b>Cllr. Alan Tobin</b>		<b>Against</b>		
<b>Cllr. Sharon Tolan</b>		<b>Against</b>		
<b>Cllr. Gillian Toole</b>		<b>Against</b>		
<b>Result</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>		

The motion was defeated.

- Meath County Council adopts, for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 the Annual Budget set out in Tables A – F.

It was proposed to adopt the annual Budget on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O’ Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**.

An amendment to the proposal was put forward by **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Sean Drew** i.e. *“to divide the €3.5m across the six Municipal Districts and re-examine the Budget figures”*

A vote on the amendment was called as follows:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Cllr. Joseph Bonner</b>		<b>Against</b>		
<b>Cllr Sinead Burke</b>	<b>For</b>			
<b>Cllr. Shane Cassells</b>	<b>For</b>			
<b>Cllr. Eugene Cassidy</b>		<b>Against</b>		
<b>Cllr. Francis Deane</b>		<b>Against</b>		
<b>Cllr Sean Drew</b>	<b>For</b>			
<b>Cllr. Eimear Ferguson</b>	<b>For</b>			
<b>Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald</b>		<b>Against</b>		
<b>Cllr. Enda Flynn</b>		<b>Against</b>		
<b>Cllr. Wayne Forde</b>		<b>Against</b>		
<b>Cllr. Joe Fox</b>		<b>Against</b>		
<b>Cllr. Noel French</b>		<b>Against</b>		
<b>Cllr. Michael Gallagher</b>	<b>For</b>			
<b>Cllr. David Gilroy</b>		<b>Against</b>		
<b>Cllr. Trevor Golden</b>		<b>Against</b>		
<b>Cllr. Johnny Guirke</b>	<b>For</b>			
<b>Cllr. Wayne Harding</b>	<b>For</b>			
<b>Cllr. James Holloway</b>		<b>Against</b>		
<b>Cllr. Suzanne Jamal</b>		<b>Against</b>		
<b>Cllr. Tom Kelly</b>		<b>Against</b>		



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Cllr. Sharon Keogan		Against		
Cllr. Nick Killian		Against		
Cllr. Caroline Lynch	For			
Cllr. Stephen McKee	For			
Cllr. Ronan McKenna	For			
Cllr. Paddy Meade		Against		
Cllr. Maria Murphy		Against		
Cllr. Gerry O' Connor		Against		
Cllr. Claire O' Driscoll	For			
Cllr. Maria O' Kane	For			
Cllr. Damien O' Reilly	For			
Cllr. Darren O' Rourke	For			
Cllr. Bryan Reilly	For			
Cllr. Joe Reilly	For			
Cllr. Sarah Reilly		Against		
Cllr. Tommy Reilly	For			
Cllr. Sean Smith	For			
Cllr. Alan Tobin		Against		
Cllr. Sharon Tolan		Against		
Cllr. Gillian Toole		Against		
<b>Result</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>		

The motion was defeated.

A vote on the proposal to adopt the Budget was called as follows:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Cllr. Joseph Bonner	For			
Cllr Sinead Burke		Against		
Cllr. Shane Cassells		Against		
Cllr. Eugene Cassidy	For			
Cllr. Francis Deane	For			
Cllr Sean Drew		Against		
Cllr. Eimear Ferguson		Against		
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald	For			
Cllr. Enda Flynn	For			
Cllr. Wayne Forde	For			
Cllr. Joe Fox	For			
Cllr. Noel French	For			





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Cllr. Michael Gallagher		Against		
Cllr. David Gilroy	For			
Cllr. Trevor Golden	For			
Cllr. Johnny Guirke		Against		
Cllr. Wayne Harding		Against		
Cllr. James Holloway	For			
Cllr. Suzanne Jamal	For			
Cllr. Tom Kelly	For			
Cllr. Sharon Keogan	For			
Cllr. Nick Killian	For			
Cllr. Caroline Lynch		Against		
Cllr. Stephen McKee		Against		
Cllr. Ronan McKenna		Against		
Cllr. Paddy Meade	For			
Cllr. Maria Murphy	For			
Cllr. Gerry O' Connor	For			
Cllr. Claire O' Driscoll		Against		
Cllr. Maria O' Kane		Against		
Cllr. Damien O' Reilly		Against		
Cllr. Darren O' Rourke		Against		
Cllr. Bryan Reilly		Against		
Cllr. Joe Reilly		Against		
Cllr. Sarah Reilly	For			
Cllr. Tommy Reilly		Against		
Cllr. Sean Smith		Against		
Cllr. Alan Tobin	For			
Cllr. Sharon Tolan	For			
Cllr. Gillian Toole	For			
<b>Result</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>		

The Budget was duly adopted.

- That Meath County Council determines in accordance with the Budget as adopted the rate as set out in Table A and Column (7) of Table C to be the annual rate on valuation to be levied for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 for the purposes set out in Table A and Table C.  
Adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O' Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** (in accordance with the roll call vote re Agenda Item 2).



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4. Formal Determination of the Rates Vacancy Refund Rate  
Adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O' Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** (in accordance with the roll call vote re Agenda Item 2).
  
5. That Meath County Council approves of the transfer to capital account of the sums provided for various capital purposes in the Annual Budget for 2015 as adopted.  
Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O' Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** (in accordance with the roll call vote re Agenda Item 2).
  
6. That Meath County Council approves the estimated over expenditure for financial year 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 as set out in Table A – F and outturn details.  
Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O' Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** (in accordance with the roll call vote re Agenda Item 2).

The Chief Executive concluded by thanking the Head of Finance and her staff for their work in compiling the Draft Budget.

This concluded the business of the meeting.