



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting 6th December 2010, Council Chamber

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Ann Dillon-Gallagher presided.

Members Present:

Councillors Joseph Bonner, 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, Jim Holloway, Eoin Holmes, Suzanne Jamal, Nick Killian, Noel Leonard, Tracy McElhinney, Niamh McGowan, 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

Planning Officials: Pat Gallagher, Wendy Bagnall and Orla O'Brien

Administrative Officer: Olive Falsey

Apologies: Cllrs. Ray Butler and Jenny McHugh.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

- 1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Monthly meeting held on 1st November 2010.
Minutes of Monthly meeting held on 1st November 2010 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor J. V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Willie Carey**

2.0 Matters arising from the minutes

- Councillor Cassells asserted that minutes of meetings should only be proposed and seconded by Members who are in attendance at the said meetings. This was noted.
- Councillor Tommy Reilly asked if the Planning Department had reviewed the recent refusal by An Bord Pleanála of a major development at Clonmagadden. Tadhg McDonnell advised regarding the five reasons for refusal as identified in the decision.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Ena Hand former employee.
- Dominic Murtagh on the death of his mother Tilly (wife of former Councillor Johnny Murtagh)
- John O' Grady former employee on the death of his wife Deirdre former employee.
- Paul Tierney on the death of his mother.
- Lorraine Hennessy on the death of her mother-in-law.

Congratulations were extended to:



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- The outdoor staff of Meath County Council on their work during the severe weather.
- Councillor J.V. Farrelly and Martin Rogers on organising the recent visit by the Members to Stormont. The Cathaoirleach informed the Members of her intention to invite the Lord Mayor to Meath Co. Council in 2011.

4.0 Correspondence

4.1 Circular Fin 09/2010 – Local Authority 2011 Budget Meetings
Noted

4.2 Correspondence from National Roads Authority re request from Irish Road Hauliers Association.
The response from the NRA was noted. However, Members requested the Council to pursue this matter further in the new year.

4.3 Report on Severe Weather Response by Meath Co. Council
The Co. Manager advised the Members as follows:

- Meath County Council's Severe Weather Management Group has conducted daily and twice daily meetings and conference calls.
- Regional Severe Weather Management liaison meetings at working group level have taken place on a daily basis with Gardaí and the HSE.
- On-going liaison with the inter-agency co-ordination groups and the NRA.
- Road gritting has operated in accordance with the locally agreed published schedule. This has meant that the vast majority of gritting routes have been passable during this cold spell.
- Areas of the county which were 'worst hit' benefited from additional local gritting.
- Constant monitoring of water reservoir levels during this period has been taking place.
- A comprehensive communications strategy has been put in place. This includes regular press and media releases, web-site updates and social-media updates. Copies of press releases are being provided to the elected members.
- Extended opening hours for reception at County Hall from 1st to 3rd December and availability of Civil Defence response during weekend of 4th and 5th December.
- Meath County Council Civil Defence Units on standby and providing local assistance particularly to healthcare staff and other local authority staff. Four wheel drive vehicles have been deployed / positioned to provide easy access and county wide coverage when required.
- Housing services have been on standby to deal with all housing emergencies. All homeless presenters have been catered for and ongoing liaison continues with the voluntary, sectoral and statutory bodies.
- The Severe Weather Management Group continues to meet as and will continue to meet when necessary until the current weather conditions abate and services run normally.
- Robust business continuity processes are in place.
- Military assistance has been utilized to clear snow in parts of the county.
- Grit has been provided to local communities.
- The county's retained fire service remains on standby to assist if necessary.



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The Co. Manager thanked the Cathaoirleach and the significant number of Members who positively supported the Council in its work over the past 10 days. He acknowledged the co-operation from voluntary groups, the Gardaí and the HSE. He particularly acknowledged the extraordinary dedication and commitment of the Meath County Council management and staff in responding to the crisis. Finally he thanked the Meath County Council Civil Defence and their wonderful volunteers.

- 4.4 Correspondence re Townparks Remedial Works Scheme.
Following the circulation of a report from County Manager Tom Dowling, a lengthy and heated discussion took place with Members expressing grave concern about the future of the planned works and the deterioration of living conditions in the estate. Eugene Cummins Director of Services advised the Members that, by taking the action it did, the Council's risk of exposure to litigation was removed. The Co. Manager advised the Members that the Council was committed to the project and is pursuing all options to ensure that the project remains a priority including the procurement of a new contractor to complete the works.

5.0 E.U. Correspondence

- 5.1 EU News Bulletin – Number 75, October 2010
It was agreed that this item of correspondence should, in future, be removed from the Council agenda and placed on Meath.ie for viewing or downloading.

6.0 Report from Protocol Committee

The Protocol Committee recommended that:

- “Statutory Business” should be moved above “Correspondence” on the Council’s monthly agenda.
- internal/non statutory business presentations be limited to 10 minutes and to the executive summaries with the full content of the report to be provided to the Members in hard copy.

Agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Willie Carey** and seconded by **Councillor John V. Farrelly**.

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 Planning

- 8.1.1 To consider taking in charge of the following estates and if thought fit declaring that the roads within these estates be public roads as recommended by Members of Trim Electoral Area:

- Glen Abhainn (Phase 2), Enfield, Co Meath
- Lackanash, Trim, Co Meath
- Earls Meadow, Ballivor, Co Meath

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Willie Carey** and seconded by **Councillor Tracy McElhinney**.



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- 8.1.2 In accordance with Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, to receive the report on progress achieved in securing the objectives of the Trim Development Plan 2008-2014.

A presentation was made by Orla O' Brien, Planner. The Report received and noted.

8.2 Infrastructure

- 8.2.1 To consider and if thought fit to resolve to make an order extinguishing the public right of way on the hatched sections of the L-16012-0 (53 metres) and L-16013 (260 metres) roads at Sheephouse, Donore, Co. Meath as per the attached map in accordance with Section 73 subsection (2) (a) of the Roads Act, 1993.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Jimmy Cudden** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

8.3 Environment

- 8.3.1 To receive report on "Anti-Litter & Illegal Dumping" Campaign 2010.

Agreed to defer to a future meeting.

- 8.3.2 To receive briefing report on the review of North East Regional Waste Management Plan.

Ger Murphy made a presentation. It was noted that the plan is currently at review stage and the Council will need to decide to vary or replace the plan in 2011.

8.4 Housing, Social Community & Cultural

- 8.4.1 To consider and if thought fit to resolve to adopt an 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.

It was noted that this matter was agreed by the SPC.

Adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Willie Carey** and seconded by **Councillor John V. Farrelly**.

9.0 Notice of Question

- 9.1 Submitted by Cllr Nick Killian:

"Can the Manager give a full up to date report on all legal actions and outcomes of legal actions taken by Meath County Council, on illegal structures constructed without benefit of planning permission, on the N2 from Ward Cross to Rathfeigh Cross. In addition can a report be included, on actions taken by Planning Enforcement on illegal structures constructed or under construction since June 2010 on the same N2 including the village of Ashbourne".



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Report circulated.

10.0 Notice of Motion

10.1 Submitted by Navan Electoral Area Members:

“This Council requests the County Manager to put in place a team from the Economic Development and Planning sections of Meath County Council to forward the development of the regional hospital for Navan”.

Kevin Stewart, Director of Services issued a detailed written response, which in summary informed the Members that

- A team is in place, the same team that prepared and put forward the case, in conjunction with Navan Town Council, to have Navan designated as the site for the Regional Hospital.
- Following the recommendation of Navan as the preferred location, the RPS report made a recommendation re the most suitable site in the town.
- The next step is to seek confirmation from the H.S.E. of their intention to proceed with the project on the site identified. Further major expenditure in planning the detailed infrastructure to serve this specific site should not be made until the Council receives confirmation on this matter.
- It was recommended that a further meeting should be sought with the relevant H.S.E. officials to establish their current position regarding a timeframe for the planning and delivery of the project and to establish what further actions they consider that the Council need to take to assist them in this regard.

Following a discussion the motion, proposed by **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Shane Cassells**, was noted.

10.2 Submitted by Slane Area Members:

“Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Education, Deputy Mary Coughlan, following a commitment from the previous Minister for Education, Deputy Batt O’Keeffe, to progress Duleek Boys National School’s application for the provision of two sixteen teacher schools to Architectural Planning Stage as a matter of urgency. The school has now acquired the land to facilitate this development and is very anxious, due to increasing pupil numbers, to see this development come to fruition”.

The motion as proposed by Councillor Jimmy Cudden and seconded by Councillor Wayne Harding was adopted. It was agreed to write to the Minister outlining the content of the adopted motion and to seek a response.

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



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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

12.1 To receive a presentation by Dublin City Council and RPS Consultants on the Planned Major New Water Source for the Greater Dublin Area.
A presentation was made by Gerry Geoghegan and Emily Ledwith of RPS Consultants and a report was circulated to the Members.

13.0 Any Other Business

Brendan McGrath, Director of Services gave a severe weather update. He informed the Members of the forecast of further snowfall and the situation regarding elevated water consumption of 10-15% across the County.