



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting 6th February 2012, Council Chamber

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Eoin Holmes presided.

Members Present:

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

Apologies:

Officials in Attendance:

County Manager Tom Dowling

Directors of Service: Kevin Stewart, Fiona Lawless, Tadhg McDonnell, Brendan McGrath, Des Foley

Meetings Administrator Ger Murphy

Senior Executive Officers: Larry Whelan, Michael Griffin, Brendan Fulham (A)

Senior Engineer: Gerry Boyle

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

- 1.1 Confirmation of minutes of monthly meeting held on 9th January 2012.
The Minutes of monthly meeting held on 9th January 2012 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Noel Leonard**.
- 1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Planning meeting held on 24th January 2012.
The minutes of Statutory Budget meeting held on 24th January 2012 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Noel Leonard** and seconded by **Councillor John V. Farrelly**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

- There were no matters arising.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- 3.1 John P. O'Reilly, Clerk of Works, Kells on the death of his sister;
- 3.2 Colleen Hynes, Library Service on the death of her father;
- 3.3 Claire King, Finance Department on the death of her brother.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Bryan Smith, former Captain of Meath Football Team on receiving the Hall of Fame Award at the recent Meath Chronicle Sports Awards 2012.



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

5.0 Statutory Business

5.1 Planning

To consider taking in charge of the following estates and the making of a declaration that the roads within the estates shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Act 2000-2009, as recommended by the Dunshaughlin Area Members at the monthly committee meeting on Monday 16th January 2012.

Old Mill, Ratoath, Co Meath
White Ash Park, Ashbourne Co Meath
Maelduin, Dunshaughlin, Co Meath

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Noel Leonard** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

5.2 Water Services

5.2.1 “Reform of Water Services – position paper, January 2012” published by the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government.

Tadhg McDonnell, DoS, Environment & Water Services outlined a presentation which was followed by a lengthy discussion. The main issues raised by the Councillors included:

- Considerable implications for local authorities: more decision-making and control in relation to Water Services being transferred to another authority;
- Potential significant loss of revenue to local authorities due to transfer of the Water Services function;
- Serious concern in relation to the matter: Council to make a detailed submission to the DoECLG.

County Manager, Tom Dowling outlined that local authorities have provided the Water Services function for over one hundred years but that a government decision has been made to establish ‘Irish Water’. Submissions must be issued to the DoECLG by 24th February. The Council’s main concern should be how the new Water Authority will operate. It is imperative that the Council influences and works directly with any new body in relation to the Water Services Investment Programme.

The County Manager outlined that a draft submission document will be prepared and circulated to the Members for their input prior to submission.

5.3 Housing, Social, Community & Cultural

5.3.1 To consider and if thought fit to approve, a recommendation from the Navan Electoral Area Committee with respect to 12 no. grant allocations as proposed by the Knockharley Community Liaison Committee.



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Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Jim Holloway**.

- 5.3.2 To consider and if thought fit to approve a recommendation from the Navan Electoral Area Committee with respect of a grant application from the Kentstown Village Project Committee, as proposed by the Knockharley Community Liaison Committee to procure a consultant for the purpose of commissioning the preparation of a Master Plan (to identify a project which will be suitable for the particular site in question).

Matter deferred to March meeting.

6.0 Report from Protocol Committee

The Meetings' Administrator advised that there were no matters arising from the protocol meeting.

7.0 Correspondence

- 7.1 Correspondence regarding the Evaluation of North East Region Waste Management Plan 2005 – 2010.
The matter was noted.
- 7.2 Correspondence from NRA – 2012 National Roads Allocations.
It was noted that allocations for roads would be presented at Area meetings.
- 7.3 Press Release – Minister Deenihan Announces Conservation Plan for Tara.
The Conservation Plan welcomed but it was suggested that the process should be one of consultation in order to afford an opportunity for submissions on the matter.

8.0 Notice of Question

- 8.1 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly:

“In the context of a number of unfinished estates in the county now in NAMA can the County Manager provide the following information?”

What discussions, if any, have taken place between Meath County Council and NAMA regarding:

- (a) Their intention of completing their estates;*
- (b) Their attitude regarding the bonds held by Meath County Council;*
- (c) Has Meath County Council sought access to the government fund of €40m to complete works in unfinished estates?.”*

A written response was provided to the Councillors by Michael Griffin SEO, Planning & Transportation Section

- 8.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane:

“As there are over 18,000 Meath residences with private septic tanks would Meath County Council consider accommodating clusters of residents who wish to join



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sewage schemes within town boundaries with discounted group rates which would lessen costs to individual householders? ”.

A written response was provided to the Councillors by Larry Whelan SEO, Environment & Water Services Section.

9.0 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Noel Leonard:

“I am calling on this Council to request Minister Joan Burton that in her review of the Community Employment Schemes that she restores the training and materials grant to the levels they were at in previous years with immediate effect.”

The motion was proposed by Councillor Noel Leonard and seconded by Councillor Oliver Fox. After a lengthy discussion a ‘show of hands’ vote was taken. In this regard the motion was defeated: 9 For and 12 Against.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy:

“With regard to the Household Charge payable for 2012, Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government to review the prescribed ‘List of Unfinished Housing Estates eligible for the Waiver’.”

The motion, as proposed by Councillor Maria Murphy and seconded by Councillor Sirena Campbell, was unanimously adopted.

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly:

“To call on an Tánaiste Mr Eamonn Gilmore TD to reconsider his decision to downgrade our diplomatic relations with the Holy See”.

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

After a lengthy discussion, an amended motion was proposed by Councillor Brian Fitzgerald and seconded by Councillor Willie Carey:

To call on An Tánaiste Mr. Eamonn Gilmore TD to reconsider his decision in relation to the Holy See in the event that the Vatican reconsiders its position with regard to the Lateran Treaty.

The amended motion was adopted following a ‘show of hands’ vote.

9.4 Submitted by the Navan Area Committee:

“That this Council requests that a formal appeal is made by Meath County Council to the Department of Transport to proceed with the Railway Order for the Navan Rail Line so that the land can be acquired at the current competitive prices and allow construction begin when the project is reviewed in 2015”



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The motion as proposed by Councillor Shane Cassells and seconded by Councillor Tommy Reilly was defeated following a 'show of hands' vote: 6 For and 10 Against.

10.0 Schedule of Manager's & Approved Orders (For Information Only)

- 10.1 Schedule of Manager's Orders - Infrastructure
- 10.2 Schedule of Manager's Orders – Environment
- 10.3 Schedule of Manager's Orders – Housing Construction
- 10.4 Schedule of Manager's Orders – Community & Enterprise

Noted

11.0 Presentations

No presentations.

12.0 Any Other Business

The following items were raised:

- Kells Area: Funding for road-works;
- Level of communications by staff in relation to the Townspark project was acknowledged;
- Circulation of Senior Staff directory was acknowledged.