



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting 11th June 2012, Council Chamber

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Eoin Holmes presided.

Members Present:

Councillors 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, Jenny McHugh, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Seamus O'Neill, Bryan Reilly, Joe Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Catherine Yore.

Apologies: Councillors Joseph Bonner, Niamh McGowan.

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

Planning Staff: Bernard Green, Senior Executive Planner, Loreto Guinan, Heritage Officer

Administrative Officer: Olive Falsey

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of minutes of monthly meeting held on 14th May 2012.

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 14th May 2012 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor J.V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Noel Leonard**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Eleanor Farrell, Corporate Services Safety Section, on the death of her mother Miriam Farrell.
- Declan Farrelly, Kells Area and Eamonn Farrelly, former Councillor, Kells Town Council, on the death of their mother, Mary Farrelly.
- Bridget McQuaid, staff member, on the death of her mother, Mai Britton.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Jenny Murphy, Dunshaughlin on winning the title of 'florist of the year' at the Chelsea Flower Show.
- Enfield Anglers on organising their recent fishing competition.
- Councillor Leonard for his work regarding the Islamic Finance conference in Dunboyne.



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- All those involved in the East Border Region project and the selection of County Hall for funding towards a new high efficiency heating system.

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 & Transportation

- 5.1.1 To consider Variation No. 12, to incorporate a Core Strategy into the Meath County Development Plan 2007-2013.

Brendan McGrath, Director of Service, advised that considering the Draft County Development Plan has been placed on public display and includes a Core Strategy at Chapter 2, it is the view of the executive that the adoption of Variation 12 to incorporate a Core Strategy into the current County Development Plan does not now correlate with the true intent of the Act which was to ensure that there was a clear separation of processes to either vary an existing development plan or to prepare a new development plan based in a Core Strategy. To adopt a Core Strategy now which is different to that included in the Draft County Development Plan would create confusion and would not be a clear statement of Council Policy in this area. Given the advanced status of the Draft County Development Plan process it is now recommended that the Council abandons Variation 12.

It was agreed to abandon consideration of Variation No 12 on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**.

- 5.1.2 To receive an update from the Heritage Officer on the Meath Heritage Programme.
Loreto Guinan, Heritage Officer, made a presentation, which included an overview of the value of heritage in the context of tourism and a summary of the actions undertaken as part of the Meath Heritage Action Plan. Following the presentation Councillors had the opportunity to ask questions and raise relevant issues. The Council's work and commitment to protecting the heritage of County Meath was commended. It was unanimously agreed to write to the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to outline and emphasise the importance of the Heritage Council in the promotion and protection of heritage in the country.

- 5.1.3 **Review of 2007- 2013 Kells Development Plan and the preparation of the new Kells Development Plan 2013 - 2019**

Following consideration of the Manager's Report on pre draft submissions received, to receive directions from the members of the Planning Authority regarding the preparation of the draft Kells Development Plan 2013 – 2019 in accordance with Section 11 (4) (d) of the Planning & Development Acts 2000 – 2010.



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Bernard Greene, Senior Executive Planner, outlined the minutes of the planning workshop held on Tuesday 29th May in Kells Town Council and the recommendations received. He explained that the next step is to continue the work on the preparation of a draft development plan for the town of Kells, which will be on public display in early autumn.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Bryan Reilly**.

- 5.1.4 To consider and if thought fit to resolve to make an Order extinguishing the Public Rights of Way along the sections of the L-50221, L-5032, L-10073 and L-5018 within the Electoral Area of Dunshaughlin, Co Meath, as detailed on the drawings and schedule provided in relation to the N2 Finglas to Ashbourne Road Scheme.

The Councillors resolved to make the Order on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

Councillor Wayne Harding raised the issue of the status of the report regarding the Slane bypass. It was agreed to address the matter and Brendan McGrath, Director of Services gave the following update: Since An Bord Pleanála's decision was announced, the Council has met with the NRA twice to discuss its implications and what further studies should be carried out to address the Board's views on alternatives to a bypass. As a result, the proposal is to embark upon a three stage process as follows:

- Stage 1 - Review existing information, gather supplementary information and model possible alternatives to the bypass;
- Stage 2 - Consider the legal and practical implications of any traffic management alternatives identified in stage 1, and;
- Stage 3 - Decide what is the best option to address the traffic situation on the N2 through Slane.

Stage 1 has already been advanced. An extensive survey cordon on the road network was identified where further information and traffic counts was gathered. Meath County Council appointed a contractor for this survey work and the HGV Origin-Destination Survey/Link Counts is now complete and the information obtained is being processed. This information will be used to develop a transport model which will supplement our existing knowledge of HGV transport activity through the Slane area. The consultants will produce a robust analysis of traffic management measures using the model to determine if any have the potential to be a possible alternative to the bypass in traffic terms. The outcome of this analysis will determine work on stages 2 and 3.

It was agreed that all Area Members would receive the update in writing.

5.2 Environment

- 5.2.1 To receive Draft Control of Horses Bye Laws 2012 prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Control of Horses Act, 1996 and to resolve if



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thought fit to place same on public display for the statutory period of one month (as recommended by the Environment SPC).

Resolved to place on public display on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor John V. Farrelly**.

5.3

5.3.1 **Finance**

To receive update on Revenue Position for Quarter 1 of 2012.

Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, reported that following the first quarter review the two main issues are a reduction in water income, due to reduced consumption, and a reduction in planning income. All areas are being kept under control and there is continuous monitoring and review of the financial situation. She informed that the Councillors will receive a follow-up half yearly report.

Councillors raised a number of issues including the income from rates. It was noted that figures at the end of May indicate that the cash income from rates is up and that agreements with major customers are working well. It was noted that a lot of water conservation work has been done, which has affected water consumption.

5.4 **Corporate Services**

5.4.1 To receive nomination for the Board of Meath Local Sports Partnership.

Councillor Gerry O'Connor was nominated on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

5.5 **Social, Community & Cultural**

5.5.1 To consider and approve Meath County Council Bursaries & Awards 2012 recommendations.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

6.0 **Report from Protocol Committee**

The Meetings' Administrator outlined the recommendation from the Protocol Committee to amend Standing Order No. 29 in order to reduce speaking time in the Council Chamber from five minutes to three minutes. It was agreed to refer the matter back to the Protocol Committee for clarification on whether this recommendation applies to motions or to all matters of debate.

7.0 **Correspondence**



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- 7.1 Correspondence from Department of Health re Notice of Motion concerning the New Children's Hospital.
Noted
- 7.2 Circular WP 09/12 from Dept of Environment, Heritage and Local Government re Local Authority Enforcement Measures – Grant Scheme.
Noted
- 7.3 Press Release from Minister Hogan and Ms Jan O'Sullivan re new Retail Planning Guidelines and accompanying Retail Design Manual.
Noted
- Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, drew attention to a forthcoming information meeting for Councillors and staff who represent Meath Local Authorities on various company Boards.
 - The Meetings' Administrator outlined correspondence from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding grant aid of €500,000 for the Drogheda Ramparts to Oldbridge cycle route. Concern was expressed regarding similar work on the Navan railway route. The County Manager welcomed the funding and outlined that the work to be undertaken would be very positive for the County
 - Des Foley, Director of Services, confirmed that the Special Housing Meeting would take place on Monday, 25th June at 2.00p.m.

8.0 Notice of Question

- 8.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane:

“Has Meath County Council any plans in place to carry out health and safety inspections on unfinished housing estates, ghost estates and land zoned residential including property under the control of NAMA?”

A written response was provided to the Councillors by Michael Griffin, Senior Executive Officer, Planning

- 8.2 Submitted by Councillor Nick Killian:

“To ask the Manager as to how much funding has been collected under the Household Charge, for County Meath, broken down by the five Electoral areas, up to the 31st May 2012”.

A written response was provided to the Councillors by Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance.

- 8.3 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding:

“Can I ask the manager, why are other local authorities in Leinster keen to promote artisan locally produced foods by inviting them to sell their products in large public areas including beaches, and see it as food tourism, and we do not?”.

A written response was provided to the Councillors by Ger Murphy, A/Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.



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9.0 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Jim Holloway:

“Meath County Council will support and facilitate the provision of allotments within County Meath and will where possible make available appropriate land such as cow plots for this purpose”.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Jim Holloway** and seconded by **Councillor John V. Farrelly** was unanimously adopted.

9.2 Submitted by Dunshaughlin Electoral Area Members:

“That this Council calls on the Minister to remove the embargo on staff recruitment; provide funding for additional staff; and replace outdoor staff that have retired from the Area”.

A written response was provided by Ger Murphy, A /Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources.

The motion, proposed by the Dunshaughlin Electoral Area Members and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** was unanimously adopted.

9.3 Submitted by Councillor William Carey:

“That Meath County Council take a lead role in the mobilising communities and organisations to take an active role in the County for National Gathering Ireland 2013”.

A written response was provided by Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, Corporate Services.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Willie Carey** and seconded by **Councillor John V. Farrelly** was unanimously adopted.

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Nick Killian:

“That Meath County Council in the funding of “unfunded capital balances development levies transferred” as stated in the minutes of 5th May 2009 and given as a loan by the electoral areas of Dunshaughlin in the amount of 2.6 million euro and Slane in the amount of 1.3 million euro, immediately reinstate to the electoral areas of Dunshaughlin and Slane for the purposes for which they were originally allocated through the disbursement of the Community Grants Schemes, which was funded by the 3800 euro per house under the Community Levy on each house newly purchased and built since 2004”.

The motion was seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**

A written response was provided by Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, who outlined in detail the circumstances of the matter to the meeting.

County Manager, Tom Dowling, outlined that, at the time, it was prudent financial management to transfer the monies.

Following a lengthy debate it was agreed that the motion would be adjourned pending the provision of an appraisal of capital projects.



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- 9.5 Submitted by Navan Electoral Area Members:

“That Meath Co Council calls on the HSE to clean, make safe and presentable the former Co Council yard on the Commons Road”.

A written response was provided to the Councillors by Tadhg McDonnell, Director of Services, Environment.

The motion, proposed by the Navan Electoral Area Members and seconded by Councillor Tommy Reilly, was unanimously adopted.

- 9.6 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells:

“Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Children Frances Fitzgerald to immediately reverse her decision to scrap the 50 week option from the ECCE free pre-school scheme as it will have a devastating effect on thousands of hard pressed families in County Meath as well as jeopardising the 45 full day care service providers in Meath who supply this scheme and the nearly 300 people employed in this area.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**. Following a show of hands vote the result was a tie at nine votes. The Cathaoirleach exercised his casting vote and the motion was adopted.

- 9.7 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly:

“I am calling on the members of Meath County Council to pass a resolution that we would request that NAMA earmark funds from within the €2bn allocated in their cash reserves for the construction of the Regional Hospital and that a meeting be established on foot of this motion with NAMA Chairman Frank Daly, Minister for Health James Reilly and a delegation from Meath County Council.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Shane Cassells**. After a lengthy debate an amendment to the motion was proposed by **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**

The amended motion:

“I am calling on the members of Meath County Council to pass a resolution that we would request that NAMA earmark funds from within the €2bn allocated in their cash reserves for the construction of the Regional Hospital, to transfer to the HSE a site which has already been identified as suitable for this project in the Navan town area which is now part of NAMA’s land bank, and that a meeting be established on foot of this motion with NAMA Chairman Frank Daly, Minister for Health James Reilly and a delegation from Meath County Council.”

was unanimously adopted.

- 9.8 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding:

“I request that Meath County Council call on the Office of Public Works to engage fully with the local community should they need to carry out any works within the state owned environs of the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site”.



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The motion, proposed by Councillor Wayne Harding and seconded by Councillor xx, was unanimously adopted

It was noted that information has been received from the O.P.W. to say that the situation is being assessed and that information will be provided to the area Members.

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

Members of the Meath Disability Action Group addressed the meeting and outline a number of issues that affect them in their daily lives. Following the presentation, Councillors responded in support of the issues raised, commended the group for their openness and agreed that everything should be done to promote accessibility for all.

12.0 Any Other Business

The meeting then concluded.