



## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

### **Ordinary Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2013, Council Chamber**

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Niamh McGowan presided.

#### **Members Present:**

Councillors Joe 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, Eoin Holmes, Suzanne Jamal, Nick Killian, Noel Leonard, Tracy McElhinney, Jenny McHugh, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Bryan Reilly, Joe Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Catherine Yore.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Arian Keogan

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

**County Manager:** Brendan McGrath

**Directors of Service:** Kevin Stewart, Fiona Lawless, Brendan McGrath, Des Foley. Joe Fahy (Acting)

**Meetings Administrator** Shane Donnelly

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

**Planning Staff:** Pat Gallagher, SP, Fiona Redmond, SEP

**Transportation:** Paul McNulty, SEE

**Administrative Officer:** Olive Falsey

#### **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

- 1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2013.  
The minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2013, were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

#### **2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes**

No matters arising.

#### **3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended to:

- 3.1 Peter Lynch, Water Caretaker, Dunshaughlin Area on the death of his father Kevin Lynch.
- 3.2 Fiona O'Connor, Environment Section, on the death of her brother Joe Earley,
- 3.3 Pat McHugh, Finance Section, on the death of his mother Nora McHugh.
- 3.4 Paul Cullivan, Water Services, on the death of his mother Marie Cullivan.
- 3.5 Paul Luke, Environment Section on the death of his brother George Luke.
- 3.6 Olive Falsey, Corporate Services, on the death of her uncle John Gillick,

Congratulations were extended

- 3.7 Meath County Council and Louth County Council on the launch of the Boyne Valley Drive.
- 3.8 Stuart Carolan, Navan, on his recent success at the IFTA Awards.
- 3.9 Meath Co. Council and Meath County Enterprise Board on the launch of the Navan Food Innovation and Research Internship programme.



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### **4.0 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Planning**

- 4.1.1 Review of existing Trim Development Plan 2008 – 2014 and Preparation of a new Trim Development Plan 2014-2020

*‘To receive the Manager’s report in respect of submissions and observations received as a result of the display of the Strategic Issues Paper for the Trim Development Plan 2014 – 2020 in accordance with Section 11 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2012’.*

Fiona Redmond, Senior Executive Planner, made the presentation and advised the Councillors that a workshop will take place for the Trim Town/Area Members towards the end of March.

- 4.1.2 To receive and consider the Manager’s Report in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2012 and the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2012 for improvement works along the R135 within Ashbourne.

Joe Fahy, Acting Director of Services, advised that the Report had been received and considered by the Dunshaughlin Area Councillors.

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

- 4.1.3 To consider taking in charge of Steeple Manor, Trim, Co Meath and Delmere Estate, Enfield, Co. Meath as recommended by the Trim Area Members at the February monthly committee meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Jimmy Fegan** and seconded by **Councillor Willie Carey**.

- 4.1.4 To consider taking in charge 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 2000-2011 as recommended by the Dunshaughlin Area members at the monthly committee on Monday 11 February 2013:

- Luttrell Hall, Dunboyne
- Plunkett Hall, Dunboyne
- The Paddocks, Dunboyne

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Noel Leonard** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

#### **4.2 Transportation**

- 4.2.1 To adopt the 2013 Roadworks Programme.

The 2013 Roadworks Programme was noted on the proposal of **Councillor Willie Carey** and **Councillor Jimmy Fegan**.



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### 4.3 Economic Development

#### 4.3.1 To receive presentation on the Boyne Valley Drive Visitor Infrastructure Study.

John Kelly from Brady Shipman Martin made the presentation. It was explained that the first stage of the project is now complete with new signage on the route now in place. The next two stages will focus on the quality of the sites and the interpretation and information available at each location.

Following the presentation, a lengthy debate took place. Whilst the Council welcomed the presentation, some Councillors raised their concerns regarding other places of note in the county which were not included in the Boyne Valley Drive.

Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, clarified that the Boyne Valley Drive is the beginning of a larger piece of work that will serve to market all of County Meath and its unique offering in terms of heritage tourism.

### 5.0 Report from Protocol Committee

The Meetings' Administrator advised the meeting that the Council has accepted invitations from the Meath Associations in New York and London to attend St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Four Councillors will travel to New York and one to London.

### 6.0 Correspondence

- 6.1 Circular Letter Fire 01/13 – “Keeping Communities Safe” & “Camp II” Policy Initiatives.  
Noted
  - 6.2 National Transport Authority – Sustainable Transport Measures Programme 2013.  
Noted
  - 6.3 Climate Adaptation 01/2013 – National Climate Change Adaptation Framework.  
Noted
  - 6.4 Planning Circular Letter PL. 2/2013 – Update on the National Spatial Strategy.  
Noted
  - 6.5 Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Systems.  
Correspondence welcomed and noted.
- Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, advised the Councillors of the availability of a ‘Gathering Fund’ of €20,000 to support small local gathering events during 2013.
  - Concern was expressed regarding the correspondence from the DoECLG, advising the Council of a reduction in the Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, Mobility Aids Grant and Housing Aid for Older People Grant. It was proposed by **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Shane Cassells** to respond to the letter and seek additional funding for this purpose. Concern was also expressed regarding the housing needs in the County and the future role of Local Authorities in housing provision. Des Foley, Director of Services, advised the meeting of the various allocations. He also advised that the future provision of housing would be by way of some acquisitions, the rental accommodation scheme, short term leasing and voluntary housing agencies. The Council was also informed that the Housing Needs Assessment is underway and due to be completed by the end of April.



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### 7.0 Notice of Question

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane:

*“In the context of the new property tax from the 1<sup>st</sup> July can the Manager inform the Council if the Local Authority will be taking a more pro-active approach in the taking in charge of estates within the county.”*

A written response was provided by Michael Griffin, Senior Executive Officer, Planning & Strategic Transportation.

In addition, the County Manager advised that there is a Bill before the Oireachtas and a revised policy will be brought before the Council as soon as the legislation moves forward.

### 8.0 Notice of Motion

8.1 Submitted by **Councillor Shane Cassells** (deferred by agreement from February Monthly Meeting):

The motion was seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**

*“That Meath County Council calls on the Government and Minister Phil Hogan to re-evaluate the current system of distribution of funds to local authorities and specifically Meath so that the money collected from the property tax takes account of the population centres of our county and that residents of our county can feel assured that money paid by them for this so called “local tax” is distributed and spent locally.”*

After a lengthy debate an amendment to the motion was proposed by **Councillor Maria Murphy**, seconded by **Councillor Gerry O’ Connor**, to delete the word ‘centres’ and all text after ‘county’.

The amended motion:

*“That Meath County Council calls on the Government and Minister Phil Hogan to re-evaluate the current system of distribution of funds to local authorities and specifically Meath so that the money collected from the property tax takes account of the population of our county”* was adopted.

8.2 Submitted by the Slane Area Members:

*“Having regard to the Slane Traffic Management Study and to the letter from the NRA to the County Manager dated 16th January 2013, the Slane Area Members call on Meath County Council to :*

(a) *rescind its resolution of 6th April 2009 to implement a ban on HGV vehicles travelling North /South through Slane on the N2.*

**and**

(b) *to seek a meeting with the Minister to discuss the findings of the Traffic Management Study and a solution to the inadequacy of the existing N2 through Slane.”*

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Ann Dillon-Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**, was unanimously adopted.



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### 8.3 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells:

*"That Meath County Council members seek to address - through action by our own finance section and requesting action by the Minister - the inequity faced by voluntary sporting organisations in this county who are operating club bar licences in their clubhouses but are paying full commercial and water rates, as the rates on these clubhouses is causing extreme financial hardship on clubs who are not businesses but are rated as such."*

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

A response to the motion was provided by Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance. **Councillor Cassells** subsequently agreed to amend the motion by removing the words 'through action by our own finance section'

The amended motion, *"That Meath County Council request that the Department of the Environment and the Valuation Office examine the commercial rating of Sporting Clubs and seek to have the areas of the clubhouses which are not used for the purposes of the sale or consumption of alcohol excluded for the purposes of rates."* was adopted.

### 8.4 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly:

*"I am calling on this council to request Minister for Justice Mr. Alan Shatter to lift the ban on recruitment and to reopen the garda training college in Templemore."*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

**Councillor Eoin Holmes** proposed an amended motion, which was seconded by **Councillor Willie Carey**.

The amended motion:

*"That this Council supports the Minister for Justice Mr. Alan Shatter in his endeavours, in particular his ongoing efforts to reopen the Garda training college in Templemore."* was adopted.

## **9.0 Schedule of Manager's & Approved Orders (For Information Only)**

- 9.1 Schedule of Manager's Orders - Infrastructure
- 9.2 Schedule of Manager's Orders - Environment
- 9.3 Schedule of Manager's Orders – Housing Construction
- 9.4 Schedule of Manager's Orders – Community & Enterprise

Noted

## **10.0 Presentations by other Bodies/Statutory Agencies**

## **11.0 Any Other Business**