



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

### *Ordinary Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012, Council Chamber*

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Eoin Holmes presided.

#### **Members Present:**

Councillors Joseph Bonner, 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, 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:** Councillors Sirena Campbell, Suzanne Jamal

#### **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)

**Administrative Officer:** Olive Falsey

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

- 1.1 Confirmation of minutes of monthly meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2012.  
The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2012 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor John V. Farrelly**.
- 1.2 Confirmation of minutes of the special Planning meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2012.  
The minutes of the special Planning meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2012 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.
- 1.3 Confirmation of minutes of the special Planning meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012.  
The minutes of the special Planning meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Ann Dillon-Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Noel Leonard**.
- 1.4 Confirmation of minutes of the special Planning meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012.  
The minutes of the special Planning meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Noel Leonard** and seconded by **Councillor Ann Dillon-Gallagher**.

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

Councillor Killian requested that the minutes would be amended to include his expression of congratulations to Ratoath College on winning the All-Ireland B Vocational football final.



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

Sympathy was extended to:

- Robert Gough, Motor Tax Section on the death of his mother, Philomena Gough, and to former Councillor Hugh Gough who was husband of the deceased.
- Carmel Goggins, Finance Department, on the death of her brother, John McCormack.
- Oliver Perkins, former Director of Services, on the death of his sister Annie Clancy.
- John Hayes, Finance Department on the death of his mother Monica Hayes.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The Principal and Staff of Slane National School on being awarded its fifth Green Flag.
- Oldcastle Soccer Club on winning the Meath & District League
- Tom Gibney on his success in the Irish Grand National.
- Dunboyne Castle Hotel on securing a conference on Islamic Finance.
- All associated with the recent Anti-Litter Awards and to Dunboyne on winning the overall award.
- Dunshaughlin and Ballivor communities on their achievements as participants in the 'Dirty Old Towns' programme on RTE.
- Comhairle na nÓg group on its achievement as the first such group to undertake an exchange visit to Gateshead in England.
- Dr. Ambrose McLoughlin who has been appointed to the position of Secretary General of the Department of Health. It was agreed to write a letter of congratulations to Dr. McLoughlin on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor John V. Farrelly**.
- All concerned regarding the sod-turning of the new Navan Town Park.

### **4.0 Disposal of Land in accordance**

No disposals of land.

### **5.0 Statutory Business**

#### **5.1 Planning & Transportation**

- 5.1.1 To consider taking in charge of Talbot Court, Trim Co Meath as recommended by the Trim Area Members at the April monthly committee meeting on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012.  
Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Willie Carey** and seconded by **Councillor Tracy McElhinney**.
- 5.1.2 To consider taking in charge of The Belfry, Trim Co Meath as recommended by the Trim Area Members at the April monthly committee meeting on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012.  
Approved on the proposal of Councillor **Jimmy Fegan** and seconded by **Councillor Willie Carey**
- 5.1.3 To receive an update on Variation No. 12, to incorporate a Core Strategy into the Meath County Development Plan 2007-2013 and if thought fit

*“To consider the proposed variation and the Managers Report on submissions received in respect of proposed material alterations and to resolve to make the variation, or to further modify the variation, in*



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accordance with Section 13 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2011”.

Brendan McGrath advised that this item would be deferred to the next meeting in order provide further information on matters raised. It was agreed to defer this matter to the next meeting on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

- 5.1.4 To resolve to place the Draft Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 on display in accordance with Section 11 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2011.

Michael Griffin, Senior Executive Officer explained the process of preparing and considering the Draft County Development Plan and set out a brief summary of the steps completed to date. He also advised the Councillors that in making a development plan Councillors shall be restricted to considering the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the development plan relates to the statutory obligations of any local authority in the area, and any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or and Minister of the Government

After having considered the further documentation presented in order to complete the Draft County Development Plan pack the Councillors resolved to place the draft Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019, prepared pursuant to Section 11 of the Planning and Developments Act 2000-2011 on public display in accordance with Section 12 of the said Act on the proposal of Councillor **John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

The Cathaoirleach acknowledged the work of the Planning staff on the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan. He emphasised the importance of encouraging people to engage in the process over the next number of months.

### **5.2 Housing**

- 5.2.1 To agree a date for a Special Housing meeting.  
It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor John V. Farrelly** to hold a Special Housing meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June at 2.00pm.  
It was noted that the official opening of St. Martin’s Traveller units will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> June at 4.00pm.
- 5.2.2 To seek approval to make a minor amendment to the Housing Allocation Scheme.  
Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Willie Carey**.

### **5.3 Finance**

- 5.3.1 Meath County Council resolves to exercise its power under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001 by advancing a loan to Kells Community



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Enterprise Co Ltd of €0.2 million for the Kells Enterprise and Technology Centre.

Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, outlined the purpose of the loan.

The advancing of the loan was approved on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Bryan Reilly**

### **5.4 Social, Community & Cultural**

5.4.1 To approve allocations under the Carranstown Environmental Community Projects Grant Scheme (2011).

Des Foley, Director of Services, outlined the purpose of the scheme and explained that the allocations were approved by the Community Liaison Committee and Slane Area Committee.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Seamus O' Neill**.

5.4.2 To approve Bursaries and Awards 2012 recommendations.

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

### **6.0 Report from Protocol Committee**

The Meetings' Administrator outlined that the Protocol Committee agreed to recommend that a presentation would be made by Meath Disability Action Group at the June meeting. Agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tracy McElhinney** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

### **7.0 Correspondence**

7.1 Correspondence from the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government re. S.I. No. 79 of 2012 European Union (Citizens' Initiative) Regulations 2012.

Noted

7.2 Circular Letter WP 05.12 – Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant Scheme.

Noted

7.3 Circular Letter WP 06.12 – Tourist Season Anti-Litter Grant Scheme.

Noted

7.4 Correspondence from the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government re update on Water Sector Reforms.

Councillors expressed concern about the future role of the Council in the delivery of water services. Tadhg McDonnell, Director of Services, outlined that consultation has taken place re the implementation process. Meath County Council is represented on a number of committees that are examining a range of issues. The County Manager outlined that Irish Water will be established and will be a subsidiary of Bórd Gáis. An updated report on the matter will be outlined at the next meeting.

7.5 Circular Letter WP 08.12 – Litter Enforcement Grant Scheme.

Noted

7.6 Correspondence from Department of Health – Acknowledgment of letter re New Children's Hospital.

Noted

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- 7.7 Correspondence from Office of the Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence – Acknowledgment of letter re upward only rent reviews.  
Noted
- 7.8 Correspondence from An Bord Pleanála re Amendments to existing permissions for Waste to Energy Plant at Carranstown, Duleek Co Meath.  
Noted
- 7.9 Correspondence from National Transport Authority re Sustainable Transport Measures Programme 2012 – Second Phase of Allocations.  
Noted
- 7.10 Report from Meath Comhairle na nÓg Youth Exchange to Gateshead, England, April 2012.  
Noted

### **8.0 Notice of Question**

- 8.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane:  
*“This question relates to unsustainable haulage distances involved in conveying waste products for processing or composting. As unsustainable haulage distances are contrary to the proximity principles regarding waste handling I would like to ask precisely which regional waste areas and waste management plans are to be involved in any future transportation of waste into County Meath from other counties? Please include details of waste management regulations pertaining to inter-regional transportation of waste following the recent National and North East Regional Waste Management reviews”.*  
A written response was provided to the Councillors by Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer, Environment and Water Services.
- 8.2 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding:  
*“Can I ask the Manager how many domestic dwellings in the country have water meters installed, and, or, how many are equipped for the installation of water meters?”.*  
A written response was provided to the Councillors by Gerry Boyle, Senior Engineer.
- 8.3 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly:  
*“Can the Manager inform the meeting if an approach has been made from a large Pharmaceutical Company with regard to setting up business at the former Quinn Direct premises at Athlumney Business Park”.*  
A written response was provided to the Councillors by Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, Economic Development.

### **9.0 Notice of Motion**

- 9.1 Submitted by Trim Area Members:  
*“In relation to the taking in charge of housing estates Meath County Council Planning Authority as a matter of procedure shall follow up on the issue of a snag list to developers with a reminder after a period of 3 months and that the reminder should be so worded as to maximise the potential of securing a written response from the developer. Furthermore both correspondences should issue by registered post”.*  
The motion, proposed by **Councillor Jimmy Fegan** and seconded by **Councillor Tracy McElhinney**, was unanimously adopted.



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9.2 Submitted by Councillor Oliver Fox:

*“The Members of Meath County Council resolve to direct the County Manager to ensure that a substantial portion of the Household Charge allocation to the county shall be ring-fenced for the repair and upkeep of class 3 roads throughout the county. This directive is justifiable considering that for a large number of households who have paid the charge, such expenditure will be the only tangible benefit accruing from the payment”.*

The motion was proposed by Councillor Oliver Fox and seconded by Councillor Bryan Reilly. Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance provided the information contained in the DoECLG circular dated 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011. Following a lengthy debate Councillor Fox proposed, seconded by Councillor Bryan Reilly, an amendment to the motion i.e. the inclusion of 2012/2013 after *county*.

The motion was defeated following a show of hands vote. 7 for and 10 against.

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Eugene Cassidy:

*“That Meath County Council in conjunction with Cavan County Council engage in further talks with CIE to progress the development of a cycle/greenway along the disused Navan/Kingscourt rail line. I call on Meath County Council to put in place the funds for a feasibility study in order to secure the necessary funding to make this amenity a reality”.*

The motion, proposed by Councillor Eugene Cassidy seconded by Councillor John V. Farrelly, was unanimously adopted.

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Nick Killian:

*“I wish to put forward that Meath County Council introduce, forthwith, Bye Laws to allow for the enforcement by the Gardaí of parking fines on motorists who park on double yellow lines in Housing Estates that have been taken charge by Meath County Council”.*

Following the provision of information to Councillor Killian, the motion was withdrawn.

### **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.



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### **12.0 Any Other Business**

Councillor Brian Fitzgerald raised the issue of alternative route signage on the M3 for Dunshaughlin and the issue of sponsorship of roundabouts.

Brendan McGrath, Director of Services, outlined that the discussions are continuing with the NRA in relation to the alternative route signage. Agreement has been reached to erect a sign highlighting Dunshaughlin. He also explained that the roundabouts that form part of PPP scheme cannot be included in any sponsorship scheme and it is a matter for the motorway company to maintain these roundabouts.

Cllr. McHugh raised the issue of guidelines on development regarding anerobic digestors. It was agreed that information would be provided.

Cllr. Killian raised the issue that the Health & Safety legislation is deterring people from advertising on motorways and that a methodology should be developed to address the matter. Cllr. Killian also raised the issue of €2million that had previously been set aside in the Dunshaughlin Area for the development of a swimming pool. Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance outlined that these monies, which form part of the Amenity Levies Scheme, were transferred from the Dunshaughlin Area as part of the 2008 Annual Financial Statement process. She went on to outline government policy in this regard.

The meeting then concluded.