



Miontuairiscí/Meeting Minutes

Preliminary Budget Meeting 23rd. November 2009, Council Chamber

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Willie Carey, presided.

Members Present:

Councillors Ray Butler, Shane Cassells, Eugene Cassidy, Jimmy Cudden, Francis Deane, Anne Dillon Gallagher, Regina Doherty, John V Farrelly, Jimmy Fegan, Brian Fitzgerald, Oliver Fox, Wayne Harding, Jim Holloway, Eoin Holmes, Nick Killian, Tracy McElhinney, Niamh McGowan, Jenny McHugh, Maria Murphy, Joe Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Catherine Yore.

Officials in Attendance:

County Manager: Tom Dowling

Directors of Service: Eugene Cummins, Liam Henry, Tadhg McDonnell, Fiona Lawless, Brendan McGrath.

Meetings Administrator Bill Sweeney

Senior Executive Officers: Michael Griffin, Martin Rogers, Larry Whelan.

Finance Staff: Barry Lynch, Pat McHugh, Sheila Harkin.

Administrative Officers: Olive Falsey, Ger Murphy

Apologies:

Councillors Joseph Bonner, Sirena Campbell, Suzanne Jamal.

1. To discuss Draft Budget for **Financial Year ending 31st December 2010.**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Willie Carey opened the meeting and the Members resolved to hold the meeting in committee on the proposal of **Councillor J.V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Eoin Holmes**.

The Co. Manager introduced the proceedings and outlined the difficulties facing Meath Local Authorities with a budget of €98m. as opposed to €120m. in 2008 and €108m. in 2009. He informed the meeting that there would be no increase in commercial rates. He acknowledged the difficulties that families are experiencing with unemployment and stressed the commitment of the Council to provide support and to continue the drive to attract investment in the County.

Fiona Lawless Head of Finance made a presentation and this was followed by questions and comment from the Members.

The salient points raised were:

- Vacant Houses
- Cost of repairs to houses
- Condition of some roads
- Value of Pride of Place programme

Co. Manager responded and thanked the Members for their comments and informed them that a budget statement and recommendation would be put forward at the statutory meeting on 7th December.

This concluded the business of the meeting.