



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting 5th November 2012, Council Chamber

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Niamh McGowan presided.

Members Present:

Councillors 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, Arian Keogan, Nick Killian, Noel Leonard, Tracy McElhinney, Jenny McHugh, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Bryan Reilly, Joe Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Catherine Yore.

Apologies: Cllrs. Joe Bonner, Sirena Campbell, Gerry O' Connor

Officials in Attendance:

County Manager Brendan McGrath

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

Meetings Administrator Ger Murphy

Senior Executive Officers: Larry Whelan

Administrative Officer: Olive Falsey

Planning Staff: Pat Gallagher, Bernard Greene, Nicholas Whyatt, Pdraig O' Shea

Finance Staff: Paul Timoney

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

- 1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 1st October 2012.
The minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 1st October 2012, were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**
- 1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Planning meeting held on 24th September 2012.
The minutes of Special Planning meeting held on 24th September, 2012, were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Noel Leonard** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**

Councillor Cassells sought a suspension of Standing Orders, seconded by Councillor Tommy Reilly, to discuss the article in the Irish Independent regarding the downgrading of Navan hospital. It was agreed following a 'show of hands' vote that the item would be taken under A.O.B.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Killian requested that an amendment should be made to the minutes of the Special Planning Meeting. The Cathaoirleach advised that the material amendments made



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to the Draft County Development Plan are now on public display and that any proposed further amendment may be made in accordance with this process.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

The family of the late Joan Duignan, former journalist with the Meath Chronicle.
The family of the late Sean Monaghan, former member of Kells Town Council.
The family of the late Sr. Beata Gerrity, New York
The family of the late Padraic Lynch, Meath Association of London.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Noel Leonard** and **Councillor John V Farrelly** that letters of sympathy would be written to both the Meath Association of New York and the Meath Association of London.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Navan O'Mahony's, Na Fianna, Kiltale, Ratoath, Killyon, and Rathmoylon Teams on their recent success.
- All communities who were successful at the National Pride of Place Awards and all concerned with the organisation of the event.
- Dunboyne Athletic Club on its recent success.
- All concerned with the organisation of the visit to Meath of the youth group from Gateshead, in conjunction with Comhairle na nÓg.

4.0 Statutory Business

4.1 Planning

- 4.1.1 To consider the 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 of the Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Act 2000-2009, as recommended by the Kells Area Members on Monday 22nd October 2012.

Newrath View, Kells, Co. Meath – Approved on the proposal of Councillor John V. Farrelly and seconded by Councillor Catherine Yore.
Bridgewater, Kells, Co. Meath - Approved on the proposal of Councillor John V. Farrelly and seconded by Councillor Catherine Yore.
Ardan, Athboy, Co. Meath - deferred
O'Growney Close, Athboy, Co. Meath - Approved on the proposal of Councillor John V. Farrelly and seconded by Councillor Catherine Yore.
Village Green, Carlanstown, Co. Meath - Approved on the proposal of Councillor John V. Farrelly and seconded by Councillor Bryan Reilly



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- 4.1.2 To receive the draft Kells Development Plan 2013-2019 in accordance with Section 11 (5) (a) of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2011.

Bernard Greene, Senior Executive Planner, made the presentation. Received on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Catherine Yore**.

- 4.1.3 To resolve to agree in accordance with Section 9(3)(a) of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2011 to make a single development plan for the Trim Town Council functional area and the environs of Trim.

Councillors agreed to make a single development plan for the Trim Town Council functional area and the environs of Trim on the proposal of **Councillor Jimmy Fegan** and seconded by **Councillor Willie Carey**.

- 4.1.4 To resolve to enter into an agreement with Trim Town Council under Section 9 (3) (b) of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2011 whereby Meath County Council will carry out all administrative functions associated with the preparation of the Trim Development Plan including the preparation of all statements, reports, plans, maps, statutory notices and any other documents required for this purpose.

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

4.2 **Transportation**

- 4.2.1 Update on Slane Traffic Management Study – Stage 1 Report.

Joe Fahy A/DoS introduced the item and Nicholas Whyatt made the presentation on the report.

Councillors expressed concern at the Government's decision to put the application for the Slane by-pass on hold, given the road traffic problems in the village and the risk of serious accidents. The issue of providing alternative routes to tolled routes was raised. It was suggested that the work of the officials should be supported and that a solution should be sought that involves working with the NRA.

In response, the County Manager, Brendan McGrath advised that it is the intention of the council to proceed with stages two and three of the process and that it is the policy of the Council to seek the provision of a by-pass of Slane, as outlined in the County Development Plan.

4.3 **Environment**

- 4.3.1 To consider and if thought fit to resolve to adopt Bye-Laws in exercise of the powers conferred by the Control of Horses Act, 1996 (No. 37 of 1996) and the Local Government Act 2001(No 37 of 2001) to control the keeping, riding or driving of horses in a public place and the Bye-Laws will commence on the 1st January 2013.



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Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer, advised the Councillors that one submission was received from the Garda Síochána.

The Bye-Laws were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

4.4 Finance

- 4.4.1 To receive a report on Draft Capital Programme 2013-2015 in accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001.

Paul Timoney, Financial Accountant, made the presentation and Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, informed that the Council has to prioritize the areas of capital expenditure.

Following the presentation, the Councillors had an opportunity to seek clarification and ask questions regarding particular aspects of the Draft Capital Programme. Responses were provided by the Head of Finance and the relevant Directors of Services.

- 4.4.2 To receive Revenue Report for Quarter 3 2012 (Circulated).

Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, advised on matters in the revenue report and informed that an update on the Household Charge was included in the Councillors' packs.

4.5 Corporate Services

- 4.5.1 To fill the casual vacancy following the resignation of Councillor Seamus O'Neill in accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

Arian Keogan was proposed to fill the vacancy by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Eoin Holmes**.

Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, confirmed that Mr. Keogan's nomination was in order and in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders on the co-option of persons to fill casual vacancies arising as a result of the resignation of an independent non-party Councillor.

With no opposition to the proposal, the Cathaoirleach invited Councillor Keogan to take his seat. He was welcomed to the Council by both the Cathaoirleach and the County Manager and wished every success.

Councillor Keogan addressed the meeting and thanked the Councillors for their support and welcome.

Tributes were paid to former Councillor O' Neill for his dedication to his work as a Councillor.

- 4.5.2 To receive a presentation on 'Putting People First – An Action Programme for Effective Local Government'.



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Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, made presentations on the Action Programme. and on Local Authority Actions to Support Economic Development.

It was proposed by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor John V. Farrelly** that a special meeting should be held to fully debate this matter.

- 4.5.3 To agree dates for the holding of special meetings in December 2012 relating to the budget and the County Development Plan.

Preliminary Budget meeting proposed for the **10th December at 2.00p.m.**
Statutory Budget meeting proposed for the **17th December at 11.00a.m.**
County Development Plan Meeting proposed for **17th December at 2.00p.m.**

Agreed on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

4.6 **Economic Development**

- 4.6.1 To agree submission to SEUPB on the proposed INTERREG V Programme.

Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, advised that a working draft document on the matter was in the Councillors' packs. It was explained that a single response would be prepared and submitted by the ten constituent Councils of the East Border Region and that it would be referred back to each of the ten individual Councils to make submissions.

Submission agreed on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Willie Carey**.

With regard to the Council meeting, an extension of 30 minutes was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

5.0 **Report from Protocol Committee**

The Meetings' Administrator outlined the following:

- 5.1.1 To consider the audio-recording and podcasting (i.e. on-line broadcasting) of Council meetings.

The matter was adjourned to next meeting for clarification in relation to a number of legal issues.



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6.0 Correspondence

- 6.1 IPB Insurance regarding dividend payment.

Councillor Cassells proposed that the monies be divided equally among the five electoral areas. The proposal was seconded by **Councillor Noel Leonard**. **Councillor Farrelly** proposed that the monies would be spent on Class 3 roads.

Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, explained that the dividend of €281,000 is regarded as income and used to balance the budget. Following a lengthy debate on the issue, Councillor Cassells' proposal was put to a 'show of hands' vote. The result of the vote was nine in favour of the proposal and twelve against. Proposal defeated.

- 6.2 Department of Finance regarding 'NAMA – Upward Only Rent Reviews'.
Noted
- 6.3 Circular Letter PL 07/12 – Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structure Guidelines.
Deferred
- 6.4 CD 4/12 regarding 'Local Government Reform – Implications for CDBs'.
Noted.

7.0 Notice of Question

- 7.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane:

"Can I ask the Manager for a general update and a completion date for the county burial grounds study as it is vital that this study be completed as soon as possible so as to plan for the provision of burial grounds in the county particularly due to the recent high growth in population?"

A written response was provided by Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer, Environment & Water Services.

- 7.2 Submitted by Councillor Bryan Reilly:

"Can the Manager please advise if he will seek a meeting with the Department of the Environment and the Minister Phil Hogan TD for the purposes of requesting an urgent and immediate allocation of additional funding to Meath County Council specifically for the Kells Electoral Area to carry out repairs to the roads network which is currently disintegrating by the day some of which are now Health & Safety Issues?"

A verbal response was provided to the Councillors by the County Manager who explained that as part of the funding process a submission will be made to the Department with regard to capital and revenue funding. He also informed that a letter had been received suggesting that there could be a bidding process for some monies. The Council is awaiting details of this process.



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7.3 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells:

“Was Meath examined as a base by the Irish companies which recently announced major domestic expansion plans, principally Kerry Group and Paddy Power, and which areas of internal development and structure need to be improved for this county to be successful in future jobs announcements?”.

A written response was provided to the Councillors by Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, Economic Development.

8.0 Notice of Motion

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Eoin Holmes:

“In the light that the OPW has confirmed that it has €200,000 available to build a playground at the Oldbridge House site, this Council asks that Minister Hayes accepts the Council’s offer to design a suitable playground at no charge to the OPW and that, upon approval of said design, the OPW proceed to build the playground without further delay.”

Motion withdrawn.

8.2 Submitted by Dunshaughlin Area members:

“In view of the critical housing situation in the Dunshaughlin Electoral Area with the resultant lack of houses available for social housing allied to the increase in numbers seeking housing, the Dunshaughlin Area members call on Jan O’Sullivan TD, Minister of State with responsibility for Housing, to provide extra funding in this area as a matter of urgency.”

Motion, proposed by **Councillor Noel Leonard** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**, was unanimously adopted.

With regard to the Council meeting, an extension of 30 minutes was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Catherine Yore:

“That this Council provide Emergency Funding for the immediate repair of essential roads that have become unusable, to the extent that they are a hazard rather than an essential utility.”

The motion proposed by **Councillor Catherine Yore** and seconded by **Councillor John V. Farrelly** was debated.

The County Manager advised that the Council could not provide emergency funding for repairs to class three roads.

The Cathaoirleach proposed an amended motion as follows:

“That this Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government seeking emergency funding for the immediately repair of essential



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roads in the Kells Area that have become unusable, to the extent that they are a hazard rather than an essential utility."

The amended motion, proposed by the **Cathaoirleach** and seconded by **Councillor John V. Farrelly**, was adopted.

With regard to the Council meeting, an extension of 15 minutes was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

8.4 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells:

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

"Based on the information provided by the Irish League of Credit Unions that 40% of households have less than €100 disposable income per month, we the members of Meath County Council would by resolution request the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government, the Minister for Finance and the Irish Government abandon any plans for the introduction of a Property Tax in this country in order to protect vulnerable families and in turn our ailing retail economy."

An amended motion was proposed by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** as follows:

"Based on the information provided by the Irish League of Credit Unions that 40% of households have less than €100 disposable income per month, we the members of Meath County Council would by resolution request the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government, the Minister for Finance and the Irish Government ensures any plans for the introduction of a Property Tax in this country will protect vulnerable families and in turn our ailing retail economy."

The amended motion was seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and adopted following a 'show of hands' vote. Result: 10 For, 8 against.

With regard to the Council meeting, an extension of 15 minutes was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

9.0 Schedule of Manager's Orders & 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

There were no presentations.



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11.0 Any Other Business

Cllr. Cassells raised the matter of the Navan Hospital as outlined in the article in the Irish Independent regarding the downgrading of A. & E. services.

Following a lengthy debate, the Cathaoirleach advised Councillor Cassells to make contact with the Meetings' Administrator with a view to seeking a meeting with the Meath Oireachtas members.

This concluded the business of the meeting.