



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting 3rd October 2011, Council Chamber

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Eoin Holmes presided.

Members Present:

Councillors Joseph 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, 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: Councillor Niamh McGowan.

Officials in Attendance:

County Manager Kevin Stewart (Deputy)

Directors of Service: Brendan McGrath, Fiona Lawless, Larry Whelan (A) Michael Griffin (A)

Meetings Administrator Martin Rogers

Senior Executive Officers: Ger Murphy (A) Brendan Fulham (A)

Planning Staff: Pat Gallagher, Wendy Bagnall, Deidre Fallon, Caroline Power

Administrative Officer: Olive Falsey

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

- 1.1 Confirmation of minutes of monthly meeting held on 5th September 2011.
The minutes of monthly meeting held on 5th September 2011 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Willie Carey**
- 1.2 Confirmation of minutes of special planning meeting held on 13th September 2011.
The minutes of the special planning meeting held on 13th September 2011 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Ann Dillon-Gallagher**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr. Holloway raised the issue of his motion on derelict sites and requested that the motion and the accompanying minute would be sent to the Director in the Association of City and County Councils.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of Niall Collier former employee.
- Roisin O Reilly, former employee on the death of her father.
- Fiona Lawless Head of Finance on the death of her brother-in-law.
- Avril Young, Sharon Fox and Eimear Coyle on the death of their father.
- Michael Lynch, former Councillor on the death of his brother.



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Congratulations were extended to:

- Councillor Farrelly congratulated the Staff of Meath County Council, the staff of Meath Tourism, and all the volunteers who worked in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland and Killeen Castle to make the hosting of the Solheim a success. All agreed that the Solheim Cup event helped to sell Meath internationally. Councillor Fitzgerald also thanked all those who made the visit of the Cary delegation a success. Councillor Cassells stressed the need for all stakeholders to work together to build the Meath brand and congratulated the media on the coverage of the event. It was agreed that a letter of congratulation would be written to the Captain of the winning European Team.

The Cathaoirleach added his congratulations to all concerned and congratulated Kevin Stewart and his team on their commitment and professionalism throughout the event. Kevin Stewart, Deputy County Manager thanked everybody for their kind words and outlined that the success was due to the efforts of the full community working alongside the steering group. He also commented on how the women's golf market was very valuable to County Meath.

- Ballivor, Clonard, Navan O' Mahony's, and Oldcastle GAA clubs on their recent successes and good wishes were extended to senior football finalists Summerhill and Dunshaughlin teams in the replay match.
- John Donohoe, Meath Chronicle on the publication of his recent book on Killeen Castle.
- Meath County Enterprise Board on its Tara Days event.
- Dunshaughlin Harvest Festival committee on the recent festival.
- Pride of Place team on their work.

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

5.1.1 Review of existing Meath County Development Plan 2007-2013 and Preparation of a new County Development Plan 2013 – 2019

Following consideration of the Manager's report to receive directions from the members of the Planning Authority regarding the preparation of the draft development plan in accordance with Section 11 (4) (d) of the Planning & Development Acts 2000 – 2010.

“Any such direction shall be strategic in nature, consistent with the draft core strategy, and shall take account of the statutory obligations of any local authority in the area and any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or of any Minister of Government, and the manager shall comply with any such directions”.

In issuing directions under paragraph (d), the members shall be restricted to considering the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the development relates.



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Michael Griffin, A/Director of Services, Planning & Community Department outlined the format of the presentation and advised Councillors that the purpose of the meeting was to receive directions on the preparation of a draft County Development Plan. The Councillors were advised that they had received the Manager's Report on 29th July 2011 and that in framing their directions, they shall take account of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, the statutory obligations of the planning authority and any relevant policy objectives for the time being of the Government or any Minister of the Government. The Councillors were also advised that their directions must be strategic in nature and consistent with the draft core strategy.

The following points were raised by the Councillors:

- Concern that Government policy in the area of Core strategies may be about to change.
- That the Manager's recommendation does not adequately recognise the important role of various sectors including the elderly, people with disabilities and the role of the equine industry.
- A request for planning reports to be written in clear concise language.
- Clarification as to the status of the Leinster Outer Orbital Route.
- A request for an information session to further inform the Councillors and to clarify the various stages of the forthcoming Development Plan process.
- The difficulties encountered by planning applicants in the vicinity of Brú na Bóinne.
- Access to information on submissions from statutory bodies on planning files.

The Executive responded as follows:

- The need to comply with the legal requirements of the Act and the Councillors' role in the Development Plan process.
- Councillors are being asked to give strategic direction at this stage.
- There would be further opportunity to frame the detailed content of the Draft Development Plan, at Preliminary Draft and Draft stages of the process.
- The full Development Plan process had to be completed within a 2-year timeframe.
- The Draft Development Plan would reflect the most up to date position on infrastructure provision.
- Councillors were advised of the deadlines that must be met to enable them to adopt the County Development Plan.
- The Executive will fully inform Councillors of the most up to date legislative requirements as the Development Plan process progresses.
- All 3rd party submissions together with the responses from statutory bodies are available for inspection on planning files.

Ms. Deirdre Fallon, Executive Planner, Planning Department made a presentation detailing the background and preparation of a draft development plan.

The Council noted that there were 67 valid submissions received, 14 from prescribed authorities and statutory bodies and 53 from private individual/companies



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The Councillors noted that submissions from the National Transport Authority and the Dublin and Mid East Regional Authorities must be responded to individually as required by legislation.

The Councillors considered the National Transport Authority submission and agreed to accept the Manager's recommendation on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Jim Holloway**.

The members considered the Dublin and Mid East Regional Authorities submission and agreed to accept the Manager's recommendation on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor William Carey**.

The Councillors were then invited to consider the Manager's report and recommendations in respect of 10 distinct policy areas, and gave the following directions to the Manager:-

1. (4.4) Strategic aims and development plan vision

The Councillors agreed to accept the Manager's recommendation on the proposal of **Councillor Noel Leonard** and seconded by **Councillor John V. Farrelly**.

2. (4.5) Population and settlement

The Councillors agreed to accept the Manager's recommendation on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Willie Carey**.

3. (4.6) Economic development

The Councillors agreed to accept the Manager's recommendation and append the following direction on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Willie Carey**.

To maximise the potential of and opportunities for developing the knowledge economy in County Meath.

4. (4.7) Housing and sustainable communities

The Councillors agreed to accept the Manager's recommendation and highlighted the following direction on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Ann Dillon-Gallagher**.

To promote social inclusion and take account of the needs of older people and people with disabilities.

5. (4.8) Transportation and Movement

The Councillors agreed to accept the Manager's recommendation on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Willie Carey**.

6. (4.9) Infrastructure

The Councillors agreed to accept the Manager's recommendation and to append the following direction on the proposal of **Councillor Willie Carey** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

To support the delivery of a regional hospital for the north east region in Navan.

7. (4.10) Environment



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The Councillors agreed to accept the Manager's recommendation on the proposal of **Councillor Noel Leonard** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

8. (4.11) Rural development

The Councillors agreed to accept the Manager's recommendation subject to the inclusion of the "**Equine Industry**" at point no 4 (support for agriculture) and the amendment of point 7 (Rural housing policy) to replace "tailored approach" with **County Specific**", on the proposal of **Councillor Willie Carey** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

9. (4.12) Heritage & Landscape

The Councillors agreed to accept the Manager's recommendation subject to the amendment of point 22 (Protected views) to omit "which **are deemed worthy of preservation**", the omission of "**within and adjacent to**" and its replacement with "of "in point 24 (Brú na Bóinne), on the proposal of **Councillor Jimmy Fegan** and seconded by **Councillor John V. Farrelly**.

10. (4.13) Development management and standards and guidelines

The Councillors agreed to accept the Manager's recommendation subject to the inclusion of the following directions "**That Meath County Council seek to obtain a waste water outfall to the Irish sea**" be included in the Draft Development Plan, on the proposal of **Councillor Jim Holloway** and seconded by **Councillor John V. Farrelly**.

5.1.2 Variation No.13 (Protected Views and Prospects) of the Meath County Development Plan 2007-2013

(a) To receive the Manager's report on submission received in respect of Variation no. 13 of Meath County Development Plan 2007-2013 in accordance with Section 13 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2011.
Received report.

(b) To consider the proposed variation and the Manager's report on submissions received and to resolve to make the variation, to further modify the variation or to refuse to make the variation, in accordance with Section 13 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2011.
Deferred.

5.1.3 Review of existing Kells Development Plan 2007-2013 and preparation of a new Kells Development Plan 2013-2019

"To receive a presentation on the Strategic Issue Paper prepared as part of the Pre-Draft Public Consultation Phase.

Bernard Greene, Senior Executive Planner made the presentation, which was noted.

5.1.4 Kells Development Plan Review

(a) 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 Kells Town Council functional area and the environs of Kells.



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Resolved to agree the making of a single development plan for the Kells Town Council functional area and the environs of Kells on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Oliver Fox**.

- (b) To resolve to enter into an agreement with Kells 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 Kells Development Plan including the preparation of all statements, reports, plans, maps, statutory notices and any other documents required for this purpose. Resolved to enter into the agreement with Kells Town Council on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Oliver Fox**.

- 5.1.5 To consider taking in charge of the Newcastle Woods Housing Estate, Enfield, Co Meath and if thought fit to declare that the roads within this estate be a public road as recommended by Members of Trim Electoral Area.
Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

5.2 Housing

- 5.2.1 To receive and consider Report in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 – 2011 as amended regarding proposed refurbishment works at Alverno Court and Alverno Heights, Laytown, Co Meath.
Report considered and noted on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Jimmy Cudden**.

5.3 Transportation

- 5.3.1 To receive and consider Report in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 - 2011, to upgrade bus stops along the 109/109A Bus Eireann Routes at 9 locations along the R147.
Report considered and noted on the proposal of **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by Councillor **Francis Deane**.

5.4 Finance

- 5.4.1 To receive Audit Report for 2010. (Circulated)
Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance presented the Audit Report and informed the meeting that the both the unfunded balances and the deficit were reduced, which was a positive position for the Council. A question was asked regarding the licence agreement with Aura and the meeting was informed that the issue is with the Law Agent and it is expected to be signed off shortly.
Report considered and noted.
- 5.4.2 To receive audited Annual Financial Statement for 2010. (Circulated)
AFS was considered and noted.



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- 5.4.3 To approve transfers to and from Capital as set out in the attached table (Appendix 9)
Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Ann Dillon Gallagher**.

5.5 Environment, Water, Fire & Emergency Services

- 5.5.1 To receive report on the Review of the Responses to the Exceptional Severe Weather Events 2009-2010 (Including Report on Gritting Programme 2011/2012)
Michael Fitzsimons, Civil Defence Officer and Andrew Bagnall, Executive Engineer made a presentation and this was followed by a detailed discussion on the designated gritting routes, legal clarification on the clearing of footpaths, communications and the use of social media, and winter awareness information for people to manage their water connections etc.

5.6 Community & Enterprise

- 5.6.1 To approve grant assistance for Moynalty Tidy Towns.
This item was deferred.

6.0 Report from Protocol Committee

- The Meetings' Administrator informed the meeting that the protocol committee discussed the issue of reciting the prayer/blessing before Council Meetings. The protocol committee agreed that the matter of a decision on this issue be referred to the full Council.

Suggestions were made including:

- As part of a review of standing Orders the matter of the prayer/blessing would be considered.
- The status quo of reciting the prayer on commencement of the meeting would remain, in keeping with tradition.

Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the prayer/blessing could be said before the commencement of Council meetings and the Cathaoirleach would then open the meeting.

- The Meetings' Administrator advised of a recommendation from protocol that Councillor Noel Leonard be approved to attend East Border Region conference in Brussels and that the cost would be taken from the conferences' allocation 2011. Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Ann Dillon-Gallagher** seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal**.

Report from CPG meeting:

The Meetings' Administrator advised of a number of special meetings:

- Preliminary budget meeting will take place on Monday 12th December 2011 at 10.00a.m. proposed by **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Noel Leonard**
- Statutory budget meeting will take place on Monday 19th December 2011 at 2.00p.m. proposed by **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Noel Leonard**.
- Special Housing will take place on Monday 24th October at 2.00p.m. proposed by **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Ann Dillon-Gallagher**.



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7.0 Correspondence

- 7.1 Correspondence from HSE re Meath Disability Services. Councillors noted their disappointment with the response from the HSE in particular the lack of clarity and no reference to the request for a meeting.
- 7.2 Correspondence re East Border Region – Interreg 4(a) Funding. Noted and funding welcomed by the Councillors.
- 7.3 Correspondence re Commencement of provisions of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, and further amendments of the 2000 and 2010 Planning Acts. Noted.
- 7.4 Correspondence from Housing Agency – Housing Needs Assessment 2011. Noted.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor John V. Farrelly and seconded by Councillor Willie Carey to continue with the meeting beyond 6.00p.m. as set out in Standing Orders.

8.0 Notice of Question

- 8.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane:

“Can the County Manager confirm the up to date situation regarding commercial businesses who wish to advertise on the roundabouts off the M3 and if there is an application process in place for interested businesses?”

Kevin Stewart, Deputy County Manager explained the background to this question where it was proposed that businesses should be given the opportunity to advertise on roundabouts throughout the county. While a formalised scheme is not yet in place, a pilot scheme in Dunshaughlin Area resulted in some work being done in conjunction with the Solheim Cup. It is proposed to analyse the effectiveness of this pilot scheme and revert to the Councillors. However, it was pointed out that the NRA has stated that nothing can be done with roundabouts under their control.

- 8.2 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly:

“Can the Manager give us an update on what progress has been made with the Department of Health re regional hospital?”

A written response was provided to the Councillors. Kevin Stewart, Deputy County Manager also clarified that Meath County Council has a team in place but that until a decision is made at a national level the project could not be advanced.

9.0 Notice of Motion

- 9.1 Submitted by Councillor Oliver Fox:

“I call on Meath County Council to make and implement Bye Laws to provide for the control and management of its playgrounds throughout County Meath to particularly combat growing incidences of anti-social behaviour at some playgrounds, including alcohol consumption and abuse of other substances.



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It is further proposed that this escalating problem is tabled and discussed at the county's Joint Policing Committee to identify and oversee the implementation of appropriate solutions at local level"

The motion as proposed by **Councillor Oliver Fox** and seconded by **Councillor John V, Farrelly** was adopted.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Catherine Yore:

"That Meath County Council support a general review and revision, by Government, of the Business Rating System:

To redistribute the burden of rateable valuations to take account of the huge transition in the nature of retailing, now dominated by retail multiples, in terms of turnover, to achieve a fairer more equitable system.

To compensate Local Authorities suffering retail leakage to adjacent cities.

To compensate commuter belt counties for the loss of business activity they suffer due to large numbers of residents commuting to work in cities.

That Meath County Council prepare a detailed submission for consideration by the Minister".

Councillor Yore proposed an amendment to the motion removing the text from "to redistribute.....work in cities" and this was seconded by **Councillor Jim Holloway**.

Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance explained that the Government has already dealt with this issue through the provisions of the Valuation Act 2001. There are three strands of revaluation and as there are other counties before Meath, it is not envisaged that Meath will be re-valued until at least 2013. She advised that there was no point in making a submission as the Act takes into account the issues raised in the motion.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Yore** and seconded by **Councillor Jim Holloway** that a letter would be written to the Minister asking that the revision process be expedited and priority be given to County Meath.

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly:

"I call on the Executive of Meath County Council to engage with the vendors of the Quinn Direct building at Athlumney for the purpose of investigating/finding alternative employment uses for the building".

A written response was circulated confirming that there is ongoing contact between council officials and the agents. Following a discussion on the importance of getting agencies on board to assist with finding alternative uses for the building the motion as proposed by Councillor Tommy Reilly and seconded by Councillor Shane Cassells was adopted. Councillor John V. Farrelly proposed that a meeting should be sought with the relevant Minister to discuss progress on the matter. This was agreed by the Council.

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



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Noted

11.0 Presentations

11.1 To receive presentation from FAI “Football in the Community”.
Miriam Malone, Jim Noone and Mark Scanlon (Meath Sports Development Officer) made a presentation on the role of the FAI and the wide range of community projects being implemented in the County. The success and benefits of these projects were highlighted and the FAI commended the Council for their continued support.
Councillors congratulated Mark Scanlon on his work with the youth of the County and all agreed that the football project should continue to be supported.

12.0 Any Other Business

Councillor Brian Fitzgerald raised the issues of the alternative route signage on the M3 and the compliance with the conditions of the approval granted by the An Bord Pleanála regarding completion of footpaths. He indicated that these matters had been raised previously. Kevin Stewart, Deputy County Manager indicated that both matters would be followed up and a report would be provided in due course.