



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting 1st October 2012, Council Chamber

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Niamh McGowan presided.

Members Present:

Councillors Joseph Bonner, William Carey, Shane Cassells, Eugene Cassidy, Jimmy Cudden, Francis Deane, Ann Dillon-Gallagher, Eoin Holmes, 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, Tommy Reilly, Catherine Yore.

Apologies: Councillor Sirena Campbell

Officials in Attendance:

County Manager Brendan McGrath

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

Meetings Administrator Ger Murphy

Senior Executive Officers: Larry Whelan

Administrative Officer: Olive Falsey

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

- 1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 3rd September 2012.
The minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 3rd September, 2012, were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor John V. Farrelly**.
- 1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Planning meeting held on 14th September 2012.
The minutes of Special Planning meeting held on 14th September, 2012, were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

No expressions of sympathy

Congratulations were extended to:

- Harvest Festival Committee, Dunshaughlin on organising the recent festival.
- John Coyle (Enfield) on his win at the international Tug of War Championships in Switzerland.
- Residents of Dunboyne who were involved in recent festival.



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- Meath Camogie Team on winning the All-Ireland Junior Final and the Meath Minor Football Team on reaching the All-Ireland final.

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 Transportation

- 5.1.1 To consider and, if thought fit, to approve for public display the “Draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) (Navan) County of Meath Bye-Laws (No.1) 2013”.

Joe Fahy, A/Director of Services, explained that these are Draft Bye-laws for Navan. He outlined that it would be prudent to await forthcoming national guideline documents before compiling countywide bye-laws.

Approved for public display on the proposal of **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

- 5.1.2 Provision of traffic calming measures on the R151 Golf Links Road, Bettystown, Co. Meath, pursuant to Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Ann Dillon-Gallagher**.

5.2 Environment

- 5.2.1 Update on North West Neagh-Bann CFRAM Study.
Tadhg McDonnell, Director of Services, outlined the report and informed that further documentation in particular to the Kells area would be made available. The issue of an assessment of the Bettystown area following the recent flooding of the Northlands Estate was raised and it was clarified that FEMFRAMS covers the Fingal East Meath area. It was explained that the OPW has agreed to engage consultants to further investigate the situation beyond the remit of the works already being undertaken.

5.3 Finance

- 5.3.1 To receive the Statutory Audit Report for year ended 31st December 2011. (Circulated)



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Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance outlined the main contents of the report explaining that the main issues are those that have been raised over a number of years. The five issues raised by the Auditor were:

- The accumulated revenue deficit
- Deficits regarding Capital schemes
- Revenue collection arrears
- Purchasing/Tendering procedures and practices
- Review of Planning Department

Following the presentation, the main issues raised by the Councillors were:

- The situation with water arrears when Irish Water assumes responsibility for water services.
- The number of rate payers who are relatively compliant receiving six days' notice letters in relation to legal action.
- Concern in relation to community and sporting organisations that have to pay rates and the drain on those organisations due to same.

Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, responded as follows:

- It is the understanding of the Council that the new water authority will take over all assets and liabilities of the Council.
- Notices are only issued to customers when the normal process of engagement with the customer has failed. If customers fail to engage, the Council has no choice but to issue disconnection notices and take legal action.
- The top 100/200 payers have been contacted in terms of payment as the Council needs to collect all monies as a matter of priority. With arrears of €4.6m., it is the Council's priority to put payment plans and agreements in place.

5.3.2 To receive an update on Circular Fin 11/2012 – General Purpose Grants

Fiona Lawless outlined the contents of the Circular and explained to the meeting that the monies withheld in the third quarter cannot be regained. She explained that if there is 65% collection in Meath County Council there will be no further reduction. If less than 60% there will be a cut of 1% and if between 60% & 65% the cut will be ½ %.

The meeting was also informed of the percentage collected in each electoral area and it was outlined how vitally important it is for householders to pay the charge.

A lengthy discussion took place and the main issues raised were:

- What services will be cut if funds are reduced?
- Is there a database of who has paid and not paid?
- The difficulties ahead in agreeing a budget for 2013.

It was explained, in response, that the Council does not currently have a database of householders who have paid the charge but that every effort will be made to encourage payment of the charge over the coming weeks.

The draft budget for 2013 will be presented to the Council only after the local government fund is known.

5.4 Corporate Services



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- 5.4.1 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.

Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, advised the Cathaoirleach that there was no valid nomination to put before the Council. He informed that it was the understanding that there is a person to be nominated but that matters regarding eligibility need to be clarified. A recommendation for adjournment was made. The item was adjourned on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Willie Carey**.

5.5 **Social, Community & Cultural**

- 5.5.1 Knockharley Community Grant Scheme Allocations 2012.
Des Foley, Director of Services, outlined the scheme and referred to the related items i.e. correspondence at 7.3 and Notice of Motion at 9.1. The meeting was informed that the Council would be seeking an early meeting with the Receiver to discuss all matters relating to the Kentstown community fund.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Jim Holloway**.

6.0 **Report from Protocol Committee**

The Meetings' Administrator outlined the following:

1. Arrangements are being put in place to hold a Civic Reception for the Meath Olympians on Thursday 11th October at the Ashbourne Cultural Centre, Ashbourne Library.
2. Proposal to audio record and stream Council meetings. A proposal to issue to Councillors and the matter will be placed on the agenda of the November meeting of the full Council.

7.0 **Correspondence**

- 7.1 DECLG Press Release – New Smoky Coal Ban Regulations will bring Cleaner Air, Fewer Deaths and can help efficiency.
Noted
- 7.2 National Sports Facilities Strategy 2012-2016.
Noted
- 7.3 Greenstar Holdings Limited (the “Company”) (In Receivership).
Noted

Also noted was correspondence from Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, regarding INTERREG V Consultation Document.

8.0 **Notice of Question**

- 8.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane:



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“Can I ask the Manager for an update on the bus shelters on the N3 route Navan to Dunshaughlin (ground-works were carried out last autumn)? Can the Manager advise as to when the bus shelter covers will be installed?”

A written response was provided to the Councillors by Joe Fahy, A/Director of Services, Transportation.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Jenny McHugh:

“When tenders are being considered for local authority projects, what policing if any is carried out in order to ensure that they are fully compliant in accordance with the Registered Employment Agreement as If they are not they forfeit the protection of the agreement?”.

A written response was provided to the Councillors by Joe Fahy, A/Director of Services, Transportation.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Nick Killian:

“I wish to ask the Manager as to the implications and affect of the recent Labour Court ruling, where certain grades of local authority staff of Meath County Council will now be required to work a minimum of a 34 hour week? Please include details of the grades of staff affected by this determination and how this productivity improvement will assist in the day to day operations of the Council”.

A written response was provided to the Councillors by Ger Murphy, A/Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly:

"Can the Manager provide an update on the cost to this Council for the upkeep of Basketstown Landfill? Please include the projected costs for future years."

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

9.0 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly

"That this Council calls an urgent meeting with the Liquidator/Receiver of Greenstar Landfill facility at Kentstown, Navan in order to receive an update on monies owed to this Council and the Kentstown Community Fund."

The motion proposed by **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor James Holloway** was adopted.

10.0 Schedule of Manager's Orders & Approved Orders (For Information Only)

10.1 Schedule of Manager's Orders - Infrastructure

10.2 Schedule of Manager's Orders - Environment



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10.3 Schedule of Manager's Orders – Housing Construction

Noted.

11.0 Presentations

There were no presentations.

12.0 Any Other Business

County Manager, Brendan McGrath noted that Fire Safety Week will run from 1st – 8th October and that this year's theme is 'Protecting people most at risk from fire'

This concluded the business of the meeting.