



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting 7th October, 2013, Council Chamber

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor John V. Farrelly presided.

Members Present:

Councillors Joe Bonner, Sirena Campbell, William Carey, Shane Cassells, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Ann Dillon-Gallagher, Jimmy Fegan, Brian Fitzgerald, Joe Fox, Oliver Fox, Wayne Harding, Jim Holloway, Eoin Holmes, Suzanne Jamal, Arian Keogan, Nick Killian, Noel Leonard, Tracy McElhinney, Niamh McGowan, Jenny McHugh, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Bryan Reilly, Joe Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Catherine Yore.

Apologies: Jimmy Cudden

Officials in Attendance:

County Manager: Jackie Maguire

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

Meetings Administrator: Shane Donnelly

Senior Executive Officers: Larry Whelan

Planning Staff: Bernard Greene, Senior Executive Planner, Pdraig O' Shea, Assistant Planner

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

- 1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 2nd September, 2013. The minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 2nd September, 2013 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Willie Carey**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

The Cathaoirleach advised that a special meeting of the has been arranged for the 23rd October to receive presentations from Eirgrid and the NEPP group.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Sean Breslin, former employee of Meath County Council on the death of his mother, Annie Breslin.
- Martin Rogers, former employee of Meath County Council on the death of his brother, Tommy Rogers.
- Sheila Kelly, Environment Department, on the death of her uncle, Tommy Rogers and John (Jack) Leahy.
- Mary Maguire, former employee of Meath County Council on the death of her father, Packy Maguire.



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- The family of Thomas Boylan R.I.P. former employee of Meath County Council.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Kilmessan hurling club and Blackhall Gaels on their recent success.
- All those involved in the organisation of the Dunshaughlin Harvest festival.
- The Corporate Services and IT departments on the implementation of the Alfresco system regarding Council meetings.
- Meath River Rescue on the opening of its new club house.
- Kilmainhamwood Club on its recent success.

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 To consider the proposed amendments to the Draft Kells Development Plan 2013-2019 and the Manager's Report on submissions received in respect of proposed amendments (being material alterations) to the Draft Kells Development Plan 2013-2019 in accordance with Section 12 (9) of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2013, and if thought fit to resolve to make the Kells Development Plan 2013-2019 with or without the proposed amendments or to accept the amendments, subject to any further modification that may be considered appropriate in accordance with Section 12 (10) of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2013.

Padraig O' Shea, Assistant Planner, made a brief presentation, which outlined the process to date and a summary of the submissions received in respect of the proposed amendments. He advised that the Kells Area Members had accepted the draft plan. The Meetings' Administrator advised the Councillors of their statutory obligations under the Ethics in Public Office legislation (Part 15 Local Government Act, 2001).

Kevin Stewart, Director of Services advised that the recommendation before the Council was to accept the Manager's report and adopt the Plan. The Kells Development Plan was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Bryan Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Oliver Fox**.

5.1.2 To receive the Manager's Report on the submissions and observations received following the publication of the proposed Variation no. 1 to the Meath County Development Plan 2013 -



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2019 in accordance with Section 13 (4) of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2013.

Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, advised that the report was in the Councillors' packs and that the matter would be placed on the agenda of the November meeting.

Received on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Willie Carey**.

- 5.1.3 To receive the Manager's Report on submissions received in response to the publication of development proposals pursuant to Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 - 2012, for the construction of circa. 320 metres of a 3 - 4 metre wide shared footpath /cycle path, within Kells, commencing at the existing VEC school grounds (St. Ciaran's Community College) adjacent to the swimming pool at Jim Brunnock road (L28116) within the townland of Townspark connecting into the proposed footpath /cycle path from the Gardenrath Road (L-2813).

Kevin Stewart, Director of Services advised that this matter was considered by the Kells Area Members and the Kells Town Council members and both had unanimously accepted the Part 8 proposals.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Bryan Reilly**.

5.2 Corporate Services

- 5.2.1 To receive an update on the proposed Sub-County/Municipal Reorganisation within County Meath.

Des Foley, Director of Services, provided an update and advised the Councillors that the legislation to give effect to the new structures had not yet been published. He informed that work had commenced in relation to implementing the re-organisational change necessary to give effect to the proposed county and municipal district structure. He informed that the County Manager had established a Transition Implementation Team and a specific Finance Directorate Team led by the Head of Finance, to advance the extensive financial aspects related to the transition process. The key milestones achieved to date were outlined together with the proposals up to May, 2014.

With regard to the new civic headquarters the Councillors were updated on the phases of the project.

The Councillors welcomed and noted the report.

5.3 Transportation

- 5.3.1 To consider declaring a road to be a public road in accordance with section 11 Roads Act 1993 as amended, in respect of the following;



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the laneway leading into Elm Grove, Summerhill, from its junction with the Regional Road R156-1341 to its junction with Elm Grove estate as recommended by the Trim Area Members at a Special Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 25th September 2013.

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

5.4 Environment, Fire & Emergency

5.4.1 To receive an update on Keeping Communities Safe Programme --- National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management.

Padraig Ó Longaigh, A/Chief Fire Officer, made the presentation, which included information on the background to the programme, the main outputs and the implementation process.

The Cathaoirleach and the Councillors acknowledged and noted the presentation.

6.0 Report from Protocol Committee

The Meetings' Administrator advised the Council of the proposal from the protocol committee to host a civic reception at 5.00p.m. on 4th November to recognise the Moynalty Tidy Towns Committee on winning the national Tidy Towns title.

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

7.0 Correspondence

7.1 To note correspondence from Department of Education and Skills – Reply re Eureka Girls School, Kells (*in response to Notice of Motion passed at the July Monthly Meeting*).

Noted. It was agreed that the **Cathaoirleach** and **Councillor Bryan Reilly** would represent the Council at the meeting with officials from the Department of Education and Skills, in Tullamore.

7.2 To note correspondence from Department of Health – Reply to letter re suicide prevention (*in response to Notice of Motion passed at the June Monthly Meeting*).

Noted

7.3 To note correspondence from Department of Environment, Community and Local Government re. Public Libraries Strategy 2013-2017.

Noted

7.4 To note the proposed Winter Maintenance Plan 2013/2014.

Joe Fahy, A/Director of Services outlined that it would be possible to include more regional roads this year as the NRA had taken over the winter



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maintenance of the motorways. Councillors' queries regarding specific roads were clarified and it was noted that the Council had sufficient stocks of salt. The Plan was welcomed and noted.

8.0 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"With regard to commercial water rate arrears following the takeover by Irish Water will the local authorities be responsible for collection of outstanding debts?"

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

"As the Members are aware legislation has already been passed, and further legislation is to be enacted by year end, providing for the implementation of Government policy for the reform of water services in Ireland and particularly the transfer of water services assets and liabilities to Irish Water from the Water Services authorities from the 1st January 2014.

The reform programme provides for agreement being reached on a long term partnership between Irish Water and Local Authorities in which Councils will provide water services on behalf of Irish Water through service level agreements.(SLAs) over a 12 year period. These SLAs will be informed by many different types of protocol, service plans, memorandums of understanding etc. Work is currently ongoing in the preparation of SLAs and includes many financial aspects such as the future responsibilities in terms of the collection of commercial water rate arrears."

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O'Connor

"Can Meath County Council advise if it has any plans to allow the Taxing of Commercial vehicles ONLINE? Private vehicles can do this but currently no such facility is available for commercial vehicles which causes unnecessary time loss and cost for the self employed etc."

A response was provided by Pat McHugh, Head of Internal Audit, as follows:

"Whilst this is a matter for the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government, not for Meath County Council, the following is for information purposes. A facility exists on the NVDF system to allow Commercial Vehicles to be taxed online provided the DOE certificate of roadworthiness is up to date. There is a new system "COVIS" which is being tested at the moment by the RSA that will allow the results of the DOE test to be registered directly on the NVDF system and it is envisaged that this will permit owners to tax the vehicle online without having to visit the Motor Tax Office to obtain a copy of a roadworthiness certificate. It is intended to roll out this system shortly."

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells

"Given Drogheda United's plan to dispose of their Hunky Dory Park stadium for use as a medical centre complex, which it is hoped by Drogheda



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representatives will enhance the prospect of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital being recommended as the Regional Hospital for the North East, can the County Manager please inform members of the up to date position of the request for an urgent meeting with Meath Oireachtas members made in May 2013 to discuss plans for the development of the Regional Hospital in Navan."

A response was provided by Shane Donnelly, Meetings' Administrator as follows:

"A date is currently being finalised with the five Government Oireachtas Members and a meeting will be arranged shortly."

Councillor Cassells asked the Co. Manager if the matter of the Regional Hospital would be vigorously pursued. The County Manager reiterated that the matter remains a priority for the Council.

9.0 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Dunshaughlin Electoral Area Committee

"That Meath County Council enter into discussions with MABS, Citizens Advice, and Meath Partnership with a view to facilitating these services from the Area Offices in Dunshaughlin and Ashbourne."

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.

Following a short debate the motion was unanimously adopted.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Bryan Reilly

"That this Council as the elected representatives of the people of County Meath request Greenwire Ltd. and Element Power Ltd., in writing, that they do not submit any planning application in respect of the proposed Wind Farm in North Meath until such time as the updated Wind Energy Development Guidelines come into force."

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Bryan Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Oliver Fox**.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by **Councillor Tracy McElhinney** and seconded by **Councillor Bryan Reilly** i.e. to insert the words 'County Meath' instead of 'North Meath.'

The amended motion:

"That this Council as the elected representatives of the people of County Meath request Greenwire Ltd. and Element Power Ltd., in writing, that they do not submit any planning application in respect of the proposed Wind Farms in County Meath until such time as the updated Wind Energy Development Guidelines come into force." was adopted.

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O'Connor



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“That the Council endorse and support the “Turn Off the Red Light” campaign to end prostitution and in particular to end the trafficking of women and minors for the sex industry into Ireland.”

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Gerry O’ Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Shane Cassells**, was unanimously adopted.

- 9.4 Submitted by Councillor Tracy McElhinney
“That this Council would seek an immediate meeting with, as well as a presentation to the full Council from Bus Éireann and the National Transport Authority in relation to the severe cuts in routes and general public transport services in the County in recent years and their plans to replace and enhance services.”
The motion, proposed by **Councillor Tracy McElhinney** and seconded by **Councillor Eoin Holmes**, was unanimously adopted.

- 9.5 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly
“Meath County Council congratulates and recognises the historic appointment of Reverend Patricia Story as the new Church of Ireland, Bishop of Meath and Kildare and as the first woman to be appointed as a bishop in Ireland. Meath Co Council will recognise her appointment by the hosting of a civic reception in her honour.”
The motion was proposed by **Councillor Joe Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**. Following a short debate the motion was noted and it was agreed to refer the matter to the protocol committee.

- 9.6 Submitted by Councillor Joe Reilly
“That Meath County Council, recognising that the latest figures from the Department of Education relating to primary school class sizes show that County Meath has the second highest average class size in the state, that more than 27% of all primary school pupils in the county are being taught in classes of 30 pupils or more, that St. Mary’s NS in Ashbourne is the most crowded school in the state, calls on the Government to protect and enhance the Education budget in the upcoming Budget, 2014, and to immediately address the ever-increasing pupil teacher ratio in Co. Meath.”
The motion was proposed by **Councillor Joe Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Niamh McGowan**. An amendment was proposed by Councillor Jenny McHugh to insert the wording “to restore to pre 2010 levels” instead of ‘protect and enhance’. The amendment was seconded by Councillor Joe Reilly.

The amended motion

“That Meath County Council, recognising that the latest figures from the Department of Education relating to primary school class sizes show that County Meath has the second highest average class size in the state, that more than 27% of all primary school pupils in the county are being taught in classes of 30 pupils or more, that St. Mary’s NS in Ashbourne is the most



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crowded school in the state, calls on the Government to restore to pre 2010 levels the Education budget in the upcoming Budget, 2014, and to immediately address the ever-increasing pupil teacher ratio in Co. Meath.”
was adopted.

- 9.7 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy
“Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government to reinstate the National Disability Strategic Funding towards capital expenditure in 2014. This funding was last available in 2010 when €215k was allocated to Meath County Council.”
The motion, proposed by **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O’ Connor**, was unanimously adopted.

- 9.8 Submitted by Councillor Shane Cassells
“That Meath County Council bids to host the Irish Technology Leadership Group Forum in Meath in an effort to drive economic investment in this area by bringing the senior executives from the world’s leading global corporations to Meath and promoting our county as a technological base.”
The motion was proposed by **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.
Following a discussion, the County Manager advised that the matter would be raised with the Meath Economic Forum and explored through the Economic Development department.
The motion was noted.

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 by other Bodies/Statutory Agencies

None

12.0 Any Other Business

- The Cathaoirleach acknowledged the work undertaken by staff in relation to the huge number of people (in **excess of 8,000**) who attended at the Motor Tax off at the end of October.



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- It was noted that the AGM of Meath Comhairle na nÓg would take place on the 18th October.