



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting 3rd September 2012, Council Chamber

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Niamh McGowan presided.

Members Present:

Councillors Joseph Bonner, Sirena Campbell, 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 Joe Reilly

Officials in Attendance:

County Manager Tom Dowling

Directors of Service: Kevin Stewart, Fiona Lawless, Tadhg McDonnell, Brendan McGrath, Des Foley

Meetings Administrator Ger Murphy

Senior Executive Officers: Larry Whelan

Administrative Officer: Olive Falsey, Ger Soady, Caroline Power

Planning Staff: Wendy Bagnall, Nicholas Whyatt, Siobhán McAleese

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

- 1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Special Planning meeting held on 8th May 2012.
The minutes of Special Planning meeting held on 8th May, 2012, were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.
- 1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Housing meeting held on 25th June 2012.
The minutes of Special Housing meeting held on 25th June, 2012, were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Noel Leonard** and seconded by **Councillor John V. Farrelly**.
- 1.3 Confirmation of minutes of Annual meeting held on 2nd July 2012.
The minutes of Annual meeting held on 2nd July, 2012, were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Ann Dillon-Gallagher**.
- 1.4 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 2nd July 2012.
The minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 2nd July, 2012, were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Noel Leonard** and seconded by **Councillor John V. Farrelly**.



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2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Sheila Kelly, Environment Department, on death of her father.
- The family of the late Michael McFadden, former Assistant County Manager
- The family of the late former Councillor Liam Carter (Trim Town Council)
- The family of the late Jeanette Keoghan, School Warden, Navan Town Council.
- Tom French, Library Service on the death of his mother.
- Eugene Newman, Housing Department, on the death of his mother.
- Councillor Brian Curran on the death of his brother.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Meath County Minor Team on reaching the All Ireland Final.
- The Olympians and Paralympians on their achievements and Dessie Donnelly for his contribution to the boxing management team.

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 agree a date for the holding of a Special Planning Meeting in order to receive the Manager's report on submissions to the public display of the Draft Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019.

It was agreed that the report would be received on the 14th September on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

- 5.1.2 To agree a schedule of dates in order to consider the Manager's report on submissions to the Draft Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019. The schedule of dates, 24th, 25th, 27th and 28th September, and 1st October, (2.00p.m.) was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor Noel Leonard**.

- 5.1.3 To consider and if thought fit to resolve to place amendments to the Development Contribution Scheme 2010-2015 on public display.

Siobhan McAleese, Staff Officer, Planning Department made the presentation.

Councillors resolved to place the amendments to the Development Contribution Scheme 2010-2015 on public display on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor John V. Farrelly**.



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- 5.1.4 To receive the Managers report on a Strategic Infrastructure Development application by Eirgrid comprising of a proposed new 110 KV circuit from Mullingar existing 110KV transmission station in Co Westmeath to Kinnegad, existing 110KV transmission station at Killaskillen townland, Co Meath (Ref 25.VA0013) and, if appropriate, to resolve to attach to that report the recommendations of the Elected Members regarding the proposed development as recorded by the Meetings Administrator, in accordance with Section 182 A of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2012.

Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner outlined a presentation on the matter after which the Councillors raised the following issues:

- The Council should receive a development contribution on a pro-rata basis;
- Any development contribution should be allocated to the Trim Area;
- A map of the line should be made available.

The matter was proposed by **Councillor William Carey** and seconded by **Councillor Tracy McElhinney**.

- 5.1.5 To receive a report on the timetable for adoption of the County Development Plan 2013-2019 and review of supporting Local Area Plans.

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, outlined the timetable for the adoption of the County Development Plan 2013-2019 and the review process of Local Area Plans. The matter was noted.

5.2 **Transportation**

- 5.2.1 To enter into an agreement pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 with Navan Town Council whereby Meath County Council will exercise the powers, functions and duties of both Councils in relation to the carrying out of sustainable transport projects funded by the National Transport Authority including, design, procurement and construction of works within the administrative area of Navan Town Council.

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

- 5.2.2 To enter into an Agreement pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 with Drogheda Borough Council whereby Drogheda Borough Council will exercise the powers, functions and duties of both Councils in relation to the carrying out of the R152 Platin Road Safety Scheme, funded by the NTA including design, procurement and construction of works within the administrative area of Meath County Council (text of the agreement to follow).

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, outlined the current position in relation to the Slane By-pass and the Traffic Management System.



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

5.3 Social, Community & Cultural

- 5.3.1 To consider and approve the Meath County Council Going Solo Award recommendation.

Des Foley, Director of Services, informed the meeting of the recommendation that Evelyn Broderick, Ashbourne, would be the recipient of the Going Solo Award, 2012.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

5.4 Finance

- 5.4.1 Briefing on revised Local Government Fund Allocation.

Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, outlined the implications of the recent Government circular in relation to the Household Charge. The meeting was informed of the 56% collection rate to date in Meath. Ger Soady, Administrative Officer, Finance Section, outlined the work to date regarding the collection of the charge and that third reminder letters are now being prepared. The limited data available was noted.

A lengthy discussion followed on the financial implications for the Council in terms of the non-payment of the household charge.

5.5 Corporate Services

- 5.5.1 To consider, and if deemed appropriate, to resolve to amend the first paragraph of Standing Order No. 29 as per the recommendation of the Protocol Committee:

From: *“Except with the permission of the Cathaoirleach no member shall address the Council for more than 5 minutes on any issue. A member may speak once upon any item on the agenda except a motion which is to be put without debate.”*

To: *“Except with the permission of the Cathaoirleach no member shall address the Council for more than 4 minutes on any issue. A member may speak once upon any item on the agenda except a motion which is to be put without debate.”*

The item was debated further and it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor James Holloway** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**, to take a roll call vote, the result of which was: 19 Against, 6 For, 4 Absent

Councillor	Vote
Cllr. Joseph Bonner	Absent
Cllr. Sirena Campbell	No
Cllr. William Carey	No

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Cllr. Shane Cassells	No
Cllr. Eugene Cassidy	No
Cllr. Jimmy Cudden	No
Cllr. Francis Deane	No
Cllr. Anne Dillon-Gallagher	No
Cllr. John Farrelly	No
Cllr. Jimmy Fegan	No
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald	No
Cllr. Joe Fox	Yes
Cllr. Oliver Fox	No
Cllr. Wayne Harding	No
Cllr. James Holloway	Yes
Cllr. Eoin Holmes	Yes
Cllr. Suzanne Jamal	No
Cllr. Nick Killian	No
Cllr. Noel Leonard	No
Cllr. Tracy McElhinney	No
Cllr. Niamh McGowan	Yes
Cllr. Jenny McHugh	No
Cllr. Maria Murphy	No
Cllr. Gerry O Connor	Absent
Cllr. Seamus O' Neill	Yes
Cllr. Joe Reilly	Absent
Cllr. Bryan Reilly	Yes
Cllr. Tommy Reilly	Absent
Cllr. Catherine Yore	No

No amendment to Standing Orders was noted.

- 5.5.2 Briefing on the nomination process to the board of Udarás na Gaeltachta and if deemed appropriate to receive nominations to same.

The Meetings' Administrator advised the Councillors nomination process and of the two nominees i.e. Cathal Seoige and Padraig Mac Donnchadha. Following a roll call vote, Cathal Seoige was nominated.

Councillor	Vote
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Cllr. Joseph Bonner	Absent
Cllr. Sirena Campbell	Absent
Cllr. William Carey	Seoige
Cllr. Shane Cassells	Seoige
Cllr. Eugene Cassidy	Seoige
Cllr. Jimmy Cudden	Seoige
Cllr. Francis Deane	Seoige
Cllr. Anne Dillon-Gallagher	Seoige
Cllr. John Farrelly	Seoige
Cllr. Jimmy Fegan	Seoige
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald	Seoige
Cllr. Joe Fox	Seoige
Cllr. Oliver Fox	MacDonnchadha
Cllr. Wayne Harding	Seoige
Cllr. James Holloway	Seoige
Cllr. Eoin Holmes	Seoige
Cllr. Suzanne Jamal	Seoige
Cllr. Nick Killian	Seoige
Cllr. Noel Leonard	MacDonnchadha
Cllr. Tracy McElhinney	Seoige
Cllr. Niamh McGowan	MacDonnchadha
Cllr. Jenny McHugh	Seoige
Cllr. Maria Murphy	Seoige
Cllr. Gerry O Connor	Seoige
Cllr. Seamus O' Neill	Seoige
Cllr. Joe Reilly	Absent
Cllr. Bryan Reilly	Seoige
Cllr. Tommy Reilly	Seoige
Cllr. Catherine Yore	Seoige

Result: Cathal Seoige – 23, Padraig MacDonnchadha – 3, Absent – 3.

6.0 Report from Protocol Committee

The Meetings' Administrator outlined the following:

It was agreed to recommend that the Council hold Civic Reception functions for:

1. Olympic and Paralympic Athletes from the County;
2. Meath Minor Football Finalists.

It was also agreed that Dessie Donnelly and any other relevant persons from County Meath associated with the London 2012 Olympics would be included.



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7.0 Correspondence

- 7.1 Correspondence from Dept. of Environment, Community and Local Government regarding charging stations for electric cars.
Noted
- 7.2 Correspondence from HSE regarding the Old Council Yard, Navan Co Meath.
Noted
- 7.3 Correspondence from Dept. of Health regarding meeting to discuss Regional Hospital in the Navan Area.
It was agreed that the Meetings' Administrator would write to the Minister expressing disappointment at the correspondence received and seek a further meeting to discuss the matter.
- 7.4 Submission to the Dept. of Environment, Community & Local Government on the LAP Guidelines.
Noted
- 7.5 Submission to the Dept. of Environment, Community & Local Government on the DCS Guidelines.
Noted
- 7.6 Update on quarry implementation (final statistics).
Matter was discussed and the work of the Council was noted.
- 7.7 To receive Draft Guidelines on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment – Consultation Document July 2012.
Noted
- 7.8 Correspondence from IDA Ireland regarding availability of Mary Buckley, Divisional Manager, Regional Business Development and Property Management for meeting in October.

Cllr. Cassells welcomed the correspondence from the IDA. It was agreed that Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, Economic Development will arrange the meeting.
- 7.9 Correspondence from Dept of Environment, Community & Local Government: A Resource Opportunity – Waste Management Policy in Ireland.
Noted.

8.0 Notice of Question

- 8.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane:

“Are there any plans in place for Meath County Council to nominate personalities such as local renowned sporting figures to represent Meath at celebratory Gathering 2013 events?”.

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



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- 8.2 Submitted by Councillor Oliver Fox:

“Can the Manager advise as to when Council funding of €200,000 (matching funds) was committed to the Athboy Social Needs and Recreational Company Ltd. Response to also include: the source of this funding; when the Manager expects these funds to be transferred to the Company and; when the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government approved €300,000 from the Sports Capital Grant?”

A written response was provided to the Councillors by Des Foley, Director of Services

- 8.3 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly:

“Can the County Manager provide an update on all monies owed by Greenstar to Meath County Council and the Kentstown Community Fund?”

A written response was provided to the Councillors by Des Foley, Director of Services.

9.0 Notice of Motion

- 9.1 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly:

“In relation to the establishment of the National Water Authority to operate water services I request that my colleagues support this motion calling on the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government Mr. Phil Hogan TD to indicate his proposals in relation to group water schemes in the context of the proposed legislation”.

A written response was provided by Tadhg McDonnell, Director of Services. The motion, as proposed by **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Noel Leonard**, was noted.

- 9.2 Submitted by Councillor John V Farrelly:

“I request that this Council calls on the Minister for Justice, Equality & Defence to immediately instruct Customs & Excise to check and monitor, on a continuous basis, the petrol and diesel being sold at all filling station outlets in the North East”.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor John V. Farrelly** and seconded by **Councillor William Carey**

Additional wording was proposed by **Councillor Shane Cassells** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**. The Cathaoirleach advised that the proposed wording could not be included.

The motion was adopted.

- 9.3 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly:

“I wish to call on this Council to liaise with the EPA and arrange that they (in conjunction with the Council's Environment Sector) inspect the Greenstar landfill facility at Knockarley in order to ensure that the pupils and teachers at Kentstown National School and all residents of Kentstown are safeguarded.”.



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Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer, Environment Department, informed the meeting that the Council had not received any reports of environmental concern. It was noted that inspections by the Council are carried out in relation to the landfill levy. It was agreed that the Council would write to the EPA in relation to environmental concerns.

The motion, as proposed by **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Shane Cassells**, was noted.

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
- 10.3 Schedule of Manager's Orders – Housing Construction
- 10.4 Schedule of Manager's Orders – Community & Enterprise

Noted.

11.0 Presentations

There were no presentations.

12.0 Any Other Business

- Councillor Sirena Campbell wished it noted that a petition of names has been received by the Cathaoirleach in relation to agenda item 4.1.
- Councillors Nick Killian and Maria Murphy raised the issue of the contract for the Ashbourne Recreational Centre and the progress regarding its construction.
- Cathaoirleach, Councillor Niamh McGowan acknowledged the retirement of County Manager Tom Dowling and informed the meeting that Brendan McGrath, Director of Services, will be County Manager, from 4th September.
 - Councillors Eoin Holmes, John V. Farrelly, Shane Cassells, Brian Fitzgerald, and Joe Bonner spoke and paid tribute to Tom Dowling's forty two years of public service and his achievements during his ten years as Co. Manager in Meath. He was wished well in his retirement.
 - Brendan McGrath, Director of Services, spoke on behalf of the Management Team and staff. He acknowledged Tom Dowling's leadership in managing all the changes that occurred during his time in Meath and for his achievements as County Manager, and his dedication to making Meath a better place for all its citizens.
 - An extension of time was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**.
 - The County Manager responded and thanked everyone for their kind words and good wishes. He acknowledged the work of the Management Team and all the staff of the Council. He paid tribute to the work of the elected Councils during his 10-year term as County Manager and acknowledged the improvements in the county over the period.

The meeting then concluded.



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