



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

1st July 2019, Council Chamber

Presiding

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Wayne Harding

Councillors Present:

Councillors Yemi Adenuga, Tom Behan, Joe Bonner, Mike Bray, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Aisling Dempsey, Seán Drew, Eddie Fennessy, Brian Fitzgerald, Padraig Fitzsimons, Joe Fox, Noel French, Deirdre Geraghty-Smith, David Gilroy, Trevor Golden, Johnny Guirke, Wayne Harding, Annie Hoey, Suzanne Jamal, Sharon Keogan, Nick Killian, Alan Lawes, Paul McCabe, Stephen McKee, Paddy Meade, Ronan Moore, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Damien O'Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Amanda Smith, Niamh Souhan, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole, Conor Tormey.

Apologies: Councillors Darren O'Rourke, Emer Tóibín

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Jackie Maguire

Directors of Service: Des Foley, Fiona Lawless, Barry Lynch, Kevin Stewart

Meetings Administrator: Robert Collins

Senior Executive Officers: Larry Whelan, Dara McGowan, Ger Murphy

1 Confirmation of Minutes

- 1.1 Confirmation of minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 13th May 2019.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 13th May 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

- 1.2 Confirmation of minutes of the Annual meeting held on 7th June 2019.

The minutes of the Annual meeting held on 7th June 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Gerry O'Connor sought and was provided with clarification on the casual vacancy that had arisen following the Local Election on May 24, 2019.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Catherine Dowdall, Transportation on the death of her father, John Anderson.
- The family of the late Michael Lynch, former Councillor Meath County Council.
- Jill Jacob, Community on the death of her father-in-law, Anthony Jacob.
- Mary Dunne, Human Resources on the death of her father, Michael (Mickey) Reilly.
- Pat Wickham, Water Services and Maria Devaney, Transportation on the death of their father/father-in-law, James (Jim) Wickham.
- Jean Whelan, Corporate Services and Larry Whelan, Environment on the death of their father/father-in-law, Jimmy Allen.
- The family of Ivan Cooper, Civil Rights advocate in Northern Ireland who died recently
- The family of Jack Rothwell, Gormanston, Co. Meath who died recently

A number of Councillors paid tribute to the late Michael Lynch, Oldcastle, former TD and member of Meath County Council.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Jockey Pádraig Beggy on winning the Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby
- Natalya Coyle and Arthur Lanigan-O'Keeffe on their silver medal at the Pentathlon World Cup
- Paul Brady four ball Handball Champion

And all those involved in the organisation of the following events:

- Kells Swimming Pool and Library renovation projects
- Kells Hinterland Festival
- Moylagh JFK 50 Mile Challenge
- National Sandcastle and Sand Sculpturing competitions at Laytown Beach



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Volleyball Ireland for the Beach Volleyball competition
- Julianstown Tidy Towns for the new clocktower in the village
- Ashbourne Cycling Club for the recent Solstice Cycle
- Comhairle nÓg Committee of the Colour Run in Blackwater park
- Meath Senior Hurling Team for winning the Christy Ring Cup
- Meath Junior Football Team
- Dunshaughlin Heritage Society
- Dunshaughlin Athletics Club on the 40th edition of their 10km race
- Cavan and Meath Senior Football squads

4 Disposal of Land in accordance with Statutory Notices circulated pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Corporate Services

- 5.1.1 To fill the casual vacancy in the membership of Meath County Council (Ashbourne LEA), following the election of Councillor Sharon Keogan in two local electoral areas, in accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended and in accordance with Article 124(2) of the Local Elections Regulations 1995.

The Cathaoirleach invited nominations to fill the casual vacancy.

Councillor Sharon Keogan proposed Ms. Amanda Smith for the position. This proposal was seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**. The Cathaoirleach confirmed that Ms. Smith had provided prior written consent to be nominated.

Councillor Joe Bonner proposed Ms. Lisa Mellor for the position. This was seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**. The Cathaoirleach confirmed that Ms. Mellor had provided prior written consent to be nominated.

There were a number of interventions from the following Councillors: **Joe Bonner; Sharon Keogan; Gerry O'Connor; Alan Tobin; Ronan Moore; Alan Lawes; Sharon Tolan; Sarah Reilly; Susanne Jamal; Nick Killian; Maria Murphy; Gillian Toole; David Gilroy and Brian Fitzgerald.**

As there were two nominations for the position a roll call vote was taken as follows:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Councillor	Vote	
Cllr. Yemi Adenuga	Lisa Mellor	
Cllr. Tom Behan	Amanda Smith	
Cllr. Joseph Bonner	Lisa Mellor	
Cllr. Mike Bray	Amanda Smith	
Cllr. Eugene Cassidy	Lisa Mellor	
Cllr. Francis Deane	Amanda Smith	
Cllr. Aisling Dempsey	Amanda Smith	
Cllr Sean Drew	Amanda Smith	
Cllr. Eddie Fennessy	Lisa Mellor	
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald	Amanda Smith	
Cllr. Pdraig Fitzsimons	Amanda Smith	
Cllr. Joe Fox	Lisa Mellor	
Cllr. Noel French	Lisa Mellor	
Cllr. Deirdre Geraghty- Smith	Amanda Smith	
Cllr. David Gilroy	Amanda Smith	
Cllr. Trevor Golden	Amanda Smith	
Cllr. Johnny Guirke	Lisa Mellor	
Cllr. Wayne Harding	Amanda Smith	
Cllr. Annie Hoey	Amanda Smith	
Cllr. Suzanne Jamal	Lisa Mellor	
Cllr. Sharon Keogan	Amanda Smith	
Cllr. Nick Killian	Amanda Smith	
Cllr. Alan Lawes	Lisa Mellor	
Cllr. Paul McCabe	Amanda Smith	



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Cllr. Stephen McKee	Amanda Smith	
Cllr. Paddy Meade	Lisa Mellor	
Cllr. Ronan Moore	Lisa Mellor	
Cllr. Maria Murphy	Lisa Mellor	
Cllr. Gerry O' Connor	Lisa Mellor	
Cllr. Damien O' Reilly	Amanda Smith	
Cllr. Darren O' Rourke		Not Present
Cllr. Sarah Reilly	Lisa Mellor	
Cllr. Tommy Reilly	Amanda Smith	
Cllr. Niamh Souhan	Lisa Mellor	
Cllr. Alan Tobin	Lisa Mellor	
Cllr. Emer Tóibín		Not Present
Cllr. Sharon Tolan	Lisa Mellor	
Cllr. Gillian Toole	Amanda Smith	
Cllr. Conor Tormey	Amanda Smith	

Result: Ms. Amanda Smith = 20 votes, Ms. Lisa Mellor = 17 votes, Not Present = 2

Ms. Amanda Smith was declared elected to fill the casual vacancy on Meath County Council. Councillor Amanda Smith was invited to take her seat in the Chamber.

5.1.2 To consider and approve the draft SPC scheme 2019 – 2024.

The Chief Executive introduced the draft SPC scheme, which once approved would go on public display for a four week period, following which nominations from the sectoral pillars and outside bodies would be sought. There were interventions from the following Councillors: **Sean Drew; Gillian Toole; Nick Killian** and **Alan Tobin**.

The draft SPC scheme was confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Trevor Golden** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

5.1.3 To appoint a replacement Councillor to Boyne Valley Tourism Ltd. following the resignation of Councillor Stephen McKee.

The Cathaoirleach invited nominations.

Councillor Tom Behan was proposed for the position by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Drew**.

Councillor Paddy Meade was proposed for the position by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

As there were two nominations for the position a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Councillor	Vote	
Cllr. Yemi Adenuga	Cllr. Paddy Meade	
Cllr. Tom Behan	Cllr. Tom Behan	
Cllr. Joseph Bonner		Not Present
Cllr. Mike Bray	Cllr. Tom Behan	
Cllr. Eugene Cassidy	Cllr. Paddy Meade	
Cllr. Francis Deane	Cllr. Tom Behan	
Cllr. Aisling Dempsey	Cllr. Tom Behan	
Cllr Sean Drew	Cllr. Tom Behan	
Cllr. Eddie Fennessy		Abstain
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald	Cllr. Tom Behan	
Cllr. Padraig Fitzsimons	Cllr. Tom Behan	
Cllr. Joe Fox	Cllr. Paddy Meade	
Cllr. Noel French	Cllr. Paddy Meade	
Cllr. Deirdre Geraghty- Smith	Cllr. Tom Behan	
Cllr. David Gilroy	Cllr. Tom Behan	
Cllr. Trevor Golden	Cllr. Tom Behan	
Cllr. Johnny Guirke		Abstain



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Cllr. Wayne Harding	Cllr. Tom Behan	
Cllr. Annie Hoey	Cllr. Tom Behan	
Cllr. Suzanne Jamal	Cllr. Paddy Meade	
Cllr. Sharon Keogan	Cllr. Tom Behan	
Cllr. Nick Killian	Cllr. Tom Behan	
Cllr. Alan Lawes	Cllr. Paddy Meade	
Cllr. Paul McCabe	Cllr. Tom Behan	
Cllr. Stephen McKee	Cllr. Tom Behan	
Cllr. Paddy Meade	Cllr. Paddy Meade	
Cllr. Ronan Moore	Cllr. Paddy Meade	
Cllr. Maria Murphy	Cllr. Paddy Meade	
Cllr. Gerry O' Connor	Cllr. Paddy Meade	
Cllr. Damien O' Reilly	Cllr. Tom Behan	
Cllr. Darren O' Rourke		Not Present
Cllr. Sarah Reilly	Cllr. Paddy Meade	
Cllr. Tommy Reilly	Cllr. Tom Behan	
Cllr. Amanda Smith	Cllr. Tom Behan	
Cllr. Niamh Souhan	Cllr. Paddy Meade	
Cllr. Alan Tobin	Cllr. Paddy Meade	
Cllr. Emer Tóibín		Not Present
Cllr. Sharon Tolan	Cllr. Paddy Meade	
Cllr. Gillian Toole	Cllr. Tom Behan	
Cllr. Conor Tormey	Cllr. Tom Behan	

Result: Cllr. Tom Behan = 21 votes; Cllr. Paddy Meade = 14 votes; Abstention = 2; Not Present = 3



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Councillor Tom Behan was declared elected to Boyne Valley Tourism Ltd.

5.1.4 To note the appointments to committees, as referred to the Municipal Districts at the Annual Meeting on 7th June.

Noted by the Councillors

5.1.5 To note the Chairs of Municipal Districts and to approve the payment of allowances for Chairs of Municipal Districts in accordance with Circular (LG 04/2018)

Noted by the Councillors

5.1.6 To receive and note Meath County Council's Annual Report 2018

Councillor Nick Killian requested that reports such as the Annual Report should be received by members five days in advance of meetings. The Annual Report was noted by the Councillors.

5.2 Finance

5.2.1 To approve the raising of a loan of €5,000,000 from the Housing Finance Agency to provide finance for approved house purchase applications, loan restructuring and other housing loan related activities, as authorised by the Housing Acts 1966-1992.

A number of clarifications were provided in response to questions from the following Councillors: **Sean Drew; Tommy Reilly and Eugene Cassidy.**

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian.**

5.2.2 To receive a Quarterly Financial Statement for Meath County Council as at 31st March 2019.

Noted by the Councillors

5.3 Environment

5.3.1 To provide an update of the Climate Action Strategy (CAS) and implementation and communication of CAS' Reports.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

A presentation providing an up-date on the Climate Action Strategy, an overview of the national Climate Action Plan 2019 and the next steps for action in the county was made by Ms. Caroline Corrigan, Senior Engineer, Environment Department. It was agreed to consider Motions 9.2 and 9.3 in conjunction with this item.

There were interventions from the following Councillors: Ronan Moore; Noel French; Mike Bray; Tommy Reilly; Alan Tobin; Sharon Tolan; Gillian Toole; Trevor Golden; Alan Lawes; Nick Killian; David Gilroy; Gerry O'Connor; Maria Murphy.

5.4 Community

5.4.1 To receive details and approve the allocation under the Knockharley Environmental Community Projects Scheme 2019, as recommended by the Knockharley Community Liaison Committee and endorsed by the Ashbourne Municipal District Councillors on 17th June, 2019.

Approved on a proposal by **Councillor Susanne Jamal** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

5.4.2 To approve a replacement member on the Meath LCDC & LAG, representing the County Meath Chamber.

Councillor Alan Tobin proposed Ms. Aine Lee. This proposal was seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and approved.

5.5 Planning

5.5.1 To note the timetable for the review and adoption of the Meath County Development Plan (Phase 2 and 3), which sets out the dates for each of the steps required, including the reduction in some of the statutory timeframes in order to achieve an adoption date of 7th September, 2020

Approved on a proposal by **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

6 Chief Executive's Report

Councillors sought clarification on a number of matters in the Chief Executive's report. The main issues discussed included:

Housing:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The purchase of lands in Ratoath and the development of housing schemes in Dunboyne;
- Progress on the situation at Alverno Court;
- Homeless services and the impact of alternative approaches to financing;
- Children in homelessness and the quality of emergency accommodation/family hubs;
- Aspects of the redevelopment of Carrick Street in Kells;

Environment

- The possible extension of the mattress campaign;
- Introduction of the Waste Prevention byelaws;

Community:

- Rehabilitation services for those with substance abuse and other social issues;
- Update on refurbishment of Libraries;

Transportation

- Progress on the Dunboyne Cycle Network;
- Progress on the Boyne Greenway – Drogheda to Mornington;
- Up-date on works at the Fire Station in Navan and at Railway Street;
- Up-date on public lighting in Duleek.

Responses were provided on the issues raised by the Chief Executive and Management Team.

6.1 Report from the Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Corporate Policy Group reviewed the agenda for the full Council meeting and received information on the particulars of some items. The CPG discussed how Council meetings could be conducted in a more efficient manner. The CPG also noted the draft SPC Scheme and that the Corporate Plan 2019-2024 will be prepared and brought to the Council in the autumn for adoption. There was also a preliminary discussion on Budget 2020.

6.2 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Protocol Committee discussed the Lobbying Act, its Transparency Code and how it would apply to the work of the SPCs. There was also a discussion on Members Reps. The Committee noted the Code of Conduct and a potential review of Standing Orders in light of the provisions of the Code on the use of Social Media. The Protocol Committee approved attendance at the AILG training seminars and discussed how the Council could garner greater recognition and impact from its funding of various festivals and events in the County.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Correspondence from the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment in response to Notice of Motion 9.4 adopted at the February 2019 meeting of the full Council re. publication of the review of the Wind Energy Guidelines.

Noted by Councillors. It was agreed that the Council would write again to the Department seeking a specific date on the publication of the Wind Energy Guidelines.

- 7.2 Correspondence from the Department of Health in response to Notice of Motion 9.10 adopted at the March 2019 meeting of the full Council re. the Standing4Women* campaign.

Noted by Councillors.

- 7.3 Correspondence from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in response to Notice of Motion 9.9 adopted at the October 2018 meeting of the full Council re. inclusion of local needs policies in County Development Plans.

Noted by Councillors.

- 7.4 Correspondence from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in response to Notice of Motion 9.7 adopted at the March 2019 meeting of the full Council re. provision of resources to introduce Choice Based Letting (CBL) in County Meath.

Noted by Councillors.

- 7.5 Correspondence from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in response to Notice of Motion 9.6 adopted at the February 2019 meeting of the full Council re. the re-introduction of the Affordable Housing Scheme to assist eligible first-time buyers to buy homes.

Noted by Councillors.

- 7.6 Circular: Housing 21 of 2019 – Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government re. Local Authority Mortgage to Rent (LAMTR) Scheme – Revision of Property Acquisition Cost Limits.

Noted by Councillors.

- 7.7 Circular LG 02/2019 – Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government re.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

newly elected local authorities.

Noted by Councillors.

- 7.8 Circular RW 08/2019 – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport re. Community Involvement Schemes.

Noted by Councillors.

- 7.9 Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye-laws, 2018 National Awareness Campaign - Briefing Note for Elected Members.

Noted by Councillors.

8 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“What actions can be pursued by the local authority in cases where cars and vans are left abandoned within estates that are in the charge of Meath County Council?”

Response:

In 2017, the Council in response to a significant increase in the numbers of vehicles being abandoned on public property (including housing estates taken in charge by the Council), introduced a new policy which sought to address the situation. The policy which was discussed at both SPC & full Council level provides for a series of steps and seeks to hold the vehicle owner responsible for the removal of the vehicle.

Following an inspection of the vehicle by the Council’s Community Warden and confirmation of ownership is clarified, notices are issued to the registered owners requiring removal of the vehicle within 7 days. However, in many cases, the owners have left the area and details of their new address is unknown.

The Council engages with the Gardaí in terms of any interest they may have in the abandoned vehicle i.e. vehicle stolen or involved in a criminal offence, and where no such interest exists, notice is affixed to the vehicle advising of the intention to have it removed and to arrange for its destruction. Where the Gardaí confirm that the vehicle is of interest to them they are responsible for removal.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Where after a statutory 6 weeks period has elapsed, and the vehicle remains in place, the Council arranges for its removal and destruction, and costs arising are levied against the registered owners.

It is considered that the policy is working efficiently since its introduction and is being implemented in accordance with all statutory requirements.

Noted by Councillors.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Mike Bray

“To ask Meath County Council the number of premises/sites listed, at present, on the derelict sites register in each Municipal District as well as the number of these deemed to be dangerous structures.”

Response:

The Derelict Sites Act 1990 provides the statutory basis to Local Authorities to prevent sites within their functional areas being or becoming a derelict site, and to ensure that owners rectify the site in question. The Act allows Local Authorities to prosecute owners who do not comply with notices served, to purchase land compulsorily in certain circumstances and to charge owners for the cost.

The Act also requires local authorities to maintain a Derelict Sites Register and allows for the charging of an annual levy based on 3% of its valuation on a derelict site in an urban area, which has been entered on the register on the 1st January of that year and where its market value has been determined.

At present, there are seven properties entered on the Derelict Sites Register. However, following the allocation of additional resources to this area during 2018, a further 39 properties are at various stages of the process prescribed in the above legislation, which ultimately leads to a property being entered on the Register, but continual engagement with the owners may see many of these properties being restored without such an entry being made.

Many inspections have been carried out where such engagement serves to address the dereliction issue without going through the full processes prescribed in the legislation. None of the aforementioned seven properties has been the subject of enforcement action under the dangerous structures legislation. Five of them are located in the Kells Municipal District and one each in Ratoath & Laytown Bettystown MDs.

Noted by Councillors.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Why is the Council obliged to take HAP recipients from Fingal, Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown and South Dublin, which has now created a severe supply problem in South Meath that and makes it impossible to get rents within the HAP limit, as well as priced people from the area out of the rental market. How many recipients has the Council taken from other local authorities and how many have other Councils/Authorities taken from Meath?”

Response:

Direction in relation to inter authority movement of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)scheme applicants is contained in Circular Housing 15/2017, which provides for the opportunity for households eligible for social housing support to avail of HAP in any Local Authority area, subject to the current Social Housing Eligibility Income Bands.

The HAP rent limits that apply are those that apply in the Local Authority where the property is situated, with due regard to be given to the prevailing market rents in the area.

To date, Meath County Council has processed 63 HAP tenancies outside of the County, while 263 tenancies have been created in County Meath for social housing applicants from outside of the County.

Noted by Councillors.

8.4 Submitted by Councillor Damien O’ Reilly

“Can Meath County Council provide the numbers of social tenants evicted in the last 5 years for anti-social behaviour?”

Response:

Meath County Council’s Anti Social Behaviour Strategy outlines the procedures to address breaches by tenants of their tenancy agreements in respect to anti social behaviour.

A Housing Authority can seek an order for possession of a house when a tenant breaches his/her tenancy agreement. The procedures for seeking an order for possession are also set out in Meath County Council’s Anti Social Behaviour Strategy (Section 6 refers), in line with the provisions of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 2014, and involve the issuing of Notices of Breach of Tenancy and/or Statutory Warning Notice in the first instance. In cases of persistent breaches of tenancy, despite



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

the issuing of warnings, and subject to sufficient evidence, Meath County Council will proceed to seek a possession order. Clear verifiable evidence is required in order for any case to advance to legal proceedings.

In certain cases, where tenants are advised that the Local Authority intends to commence legal proceedings to repossess the house, pre-emptive surrenders of the properties occur.

In general, breaches of tenancy cease in most cases upon investigation and do not re-occur. In more serious cases, the Housing Department will seek the involvement of other statutory agencies to try and address family and social issues.

There were no evictions over the past five years on the grounds of Anti Social Behaviour.

To date for 2019, 18 verbal warnings, 3 first Breach of Tenancy Notices, 1 Statutory Warning Notices were issued, and two Exclusion Orders are currently being processed, as part of a total of 179 anti social behaviour investigation cases dealt with by Meath County Council's Housing Investigation team.

Noted by Councillors.

8.5 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

"Can the executive inform this Council as to when they expect the slipways along the rivers Boyne and Blackwater to be installed and ready for use"

Response:

An Bord Pleanála, by order dated 26th November, approved the planning application and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the provision of the boat slipways and construction of access thereto on the River Boyne and River Blackwater. The Consultants engaged by the Council on the project, have completed the detailed design for the five locations involved and tenders from Contractors for construction stage are currently being assessed.

It is anticipated the construction phase involving in stream works will take place in the period July to September 2019, with the slipways being ready for use shortly thereafter.

Noted by Councillors.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

8.6 Submitted by Councillor Alan Lawes

"Has Meath County Council adopted the "All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2019" and can it give details of its role out to date? Can the Council also coordinate all the Tidy Towns groups in the County into the plan?"

Response:

The Council, in recognising the important service that pollinators provide, is developing and supporting pollinator friendly actions in towns and villages throughout the County, and particularly with regard to measures which serve to reverse the decline in the amount of food such as wildlife flowers, and safe nesting sites in our landscapes. Such actions include:

- A number of Local Authorities have recently signed up as partners of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 which is a strategy designed to address the decline of our pollinators. Meath County Council is currently considering signing up to this partnership
- Pollinator training for staff of Meath County Council was provided in April 2018 by Bio Diversity Ireland, arising from which a pollinator friendly area was developed at Buvinda House. A further pollinator area is proposed at the rear of the building, including a herb garden
- A biodiversity workshop for Community Groups was held in Buvinda House in 2018 and a separate bumble bee monitoring workshop was also held
- Community Biodiversity Action plans have been developed for seven Town /Villages in the County and they contain many actions which support pollinators
- Meath recently hosted the All Ireland Tidy Town Forum and a specific presentation was made on the National Pollinator Plan
- An area within the recently developed Derrockstown Burial Garden near Dunshaughlin is to be reserved as a pollinator friendly area
- The Council's draft Climate Action Strategy also strongly supports biodiversity including pollinator friendly actions in public recreational spaces
- The Council gave away 1,000 native saplings to community groups and individuals as part of National Tree Week in April. This initiative promotes the growth of trees and encourages pollinating insects in private gardens throughout County.
- The Council, in 2018, in association with the National Tree Council of Ireland, distributed Mountain Ash and native woodland trees to 65 Schools in the county and created a video on tree planting techniques, which was distributed to each school.

After clarification, noted by Councillors.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

9.1 Submitted by Councillor David Gilroy

“In light of the recent publication of the Departments of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltachts Irish language plan/ Plean Teanga and the forthcoming key recommendations of the Economic Forum for the Gaeltachts of Meath I ask that Meath County Council begin the process of appointing a dedicated Irish language/ Gaeltacht officer to assist in the implementation of both plans for the benefit of our whole county / I gcomhthéasc fhoilseacháin Phlean Teanga na Mí ag an Roinn Chultúir Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta, agus na moltaí atá le teacht ó Fhóram Eacnamaíochta Ghaeltachtaí na Mí, molaim go gcuirfí Comhairle Contae na Mí tús leis an bpróiseas earcaíochta chun Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge a fhostú chun cabhrú leis na pleananna seo a chur i bhfeidhm ar mhaithe leis an gContae go léir.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

Meath County Council recognises the importance of the Irish language and is committed to meeting the requirements as provided for in the Official Languages Act, 2003, and continues to develop Irish language services in as far as is possible across many areas including:

- Corporate publications in both Irish and English;
- Application forms in both Irish and English;
- Bilingual signage at Council offices;
- Bilingual public signage across the county e.g. road signage, place-names, warning signs etc.;
- Irish only signage in Gaeltacht areas;
- Customer Services e.g. all correspondence received in Irish is responded to in Irish;
- Irish language learning opportunities to promote the language and encourage staff to use it;
- Working with, and responding to, the office of An Coimisinéir Teanga to resolve issues raised by the public in relation to Irish language services.

In relation to the appointment of an Irish Language/Gaeltacht Officer, the human resource requirement for the Council continues to be driven by a workforce planning process. This process ensures that the Council is appropriately staffed so as to deliver required services. It also ensures that the Council appropriately utilises the staffing complement and associated skill-sets available. While the Council recognises the importance of the Irish language, as well as our obligations in promoting same, the employment of an Irish Language/Gaeltacht Officer must be considered as part of the workforce planning process.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

In addition to the above, national staffing approval requirements remain in place across the local government sector in terms of the creation of new positions. The Council must adhere to these obligations as well as overall budgetary implications.

The supporting information was accepted and the motion, proposed by **Councillor David Gilroy** and seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden**, was noted.

9.2 Submitted by the Trim Municipal District Councillors

“Noting the declaration of a climate change and biodiversity emergency by Dáil Éireann and reports of the United Nations on the economic, societal and environmental threats posed by climate change and biodiversity loss, Meath County Council declares a climate and biodiversity emergency in County Meath and requests the Environment and Climate Change SPC to consider the further actions required.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

The decision of the Dáil on the 9th May 2019 to declare a climate and biodiversity emergency is noted.

As the Members will be aware the Government on the 17th June published the Climate Action Plan which contains some 180 actions, together with hundreds of sub actions and embracing every relevant sector including , enterprise, housing, heating, transport, agriculture, waste, and the public sector. The Climate Plan will enable Ireland to meet emissions targets over the next decade and put in place a strong foundation for the complete decarbonisation of our economy by mid-century.

At a local level, Meath County Council commenced work on the preparation of a Climate Change Strategy in 2018 and incorporating a local adaptation strategy as required under the National Adaptation Framework published in January 2018. The Council was one of the first local authorities to advance such a strategy, a deadline for completion of which is the 30th September 2019.

A draft strategy was the subject of public consultation last year and, in light of requirements to carry out Appropriate Assessments (AA), is currently the subject of further public consultation until the 17th July 2019. The procurement of consultants to carry out such assessments was done by the Local Authority Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) whose main role is to formulate Regional Adaption Plans and to act as advisories to local authorities on preparation of their own local plans

The Climate Action Strategy titled “Making Meath Climate Ready” sets out eight thematic areas where action will be taken and drawn from areas within Meath County Councils control. These thematic areas are Economy, Mobility , Built Environment, Clean



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Energy, Resource Management, Water, Natural Resources and Planning. There are objectives and specific actions (circa 135 actions) listed for each thematic area and with indicators and owners being assigned against each action.

The draft Strategy and supporting documentation can be viewed at: <https://consult.meath.ie/en/consultation/draft-local-authority-climate-change-adaptation-strategy>

It is noted that the preparation of the draft Climate Action Strategy has been the subject of extensive discussion at the Environmental SPC and at full Council level, and further presentations will be made in respect of specified actions, some of which are already commenced and bolstered by additional staff resources recently allocated to this area.

Based on the supporting information, the motion, proposed by **Councillor Ronan Moore** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**, was adopted.

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Mike Bray

"I call on Meath County Council to engage with TerraCycle and other alternative recycling companies to implement a Crisp Packet Recycling Scheme in Co. Meath."

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

At present, there is no recycling solution in Ireland for crisp packets and they are not included in RecyclingIreland.ie for the 'blue bin' household collection. The Terracycle scheme involves designating a central collection point for crisp packets and when adequate amounts are collected, posting the items free of charge to Terracycle in the UK for recycling.

The contract for management of the Council's three recycling centres at Navan, Trim and Kells is due to be renewed shortly, and consideration will be given to the inclusion of this waste stream as part of this process.

It is pointed out that the Council participates each year in a National Litter Pollution Monitoring Scheme when some 200 surveys are undertaken in the County to determine the extent, composition and causes of litter pollution in their areas. The data obtained from the system enables the provision of more effective litter management planning for their areas.

The main constituent elements of litter pollution nationally are:

- Cigarette related litter - 55%
- Chewing Gum litter - 15%



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Packaging Litter - 12% (including Crisp Packets)

Further details on the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System and the full results of all the National Litter Monitoring Surveys be found at the [litter website \(www.litter.ie\)](http://www.litter.ie)

The supporting information was accepted and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Mike Bray** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Behan**, was noted.

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Paul McCabe

“To call on the Chief Executive to investigate the feasibility of bringing vacant commercial and residential properties back into use to help alleviate the housing crisis, including the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders, and to provide an update on any ongoing CPOs of houses or commercial buildings which will be brought back into the Local Authority housing stock”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

The potential of vacant units, including derelict vacant units, as a mechanism to deliver social housing units, while simultaneously facilitating a dual objective of urban renewal in certain instances is acknowledged.

Under the auspices of Meath County Council’s Vacant Homes Action Plan, an initial field survey of vacant units in the County has been completed, with a targeted approach in the uptake of the Repair to Lease and/or Buy to Renew Scheme for appropriate properties for social housing currently ongoing. The use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers to purchase such units will be duly examined in this context.

In 2018, 18 units were acquired by Meath County Council under the Buy to Renew Scheme, with a similar number expected to be achieved in 2019.

Furthermore, approval has been received from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government (€10,255,755) for the regeneration of Carrick Street, Kells, as a targeted response by Meath County Council in addressing the extent of dereliction present in this area.

In conjunction with the above, the Environment Section is actively targeting units under the Derelict Sites Act, and liaison in ongoing with the Housing Section with regard to the potential for social housing in relation to these properties.

Based on the supporting information, the motion, proposed by **Councillor Paul McCabe** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Behan**, was adopted.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

9.5 Submitted by Councillor Paul McCabe

“That Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Natural Resources and EIRGRID/ESB to underground the North South Interconnector and that the Council publicly proclaims its support for the resolute resilience of communities in Meath in relation to the undergrounding of the project; that the Council adopts as an automatic agenda item at every monthly Council meeting that all correspondence and meetings between Eirgrid/ESB and the Meath County Council Planning Department (or otherwise) can be documented so that all elected members can be informed of the latest information relating to the North South Interconnector; that it is agreed and accepted that no discussions or agreements on landowner route access arrangements are made by the Council without the express knowledge and consent of the affected landowners; and that the Planning Department agrees to carrying out a review and produce a report within the next six months detailing and highlighting how Eirgrid’s plans to erect 174 pylons in County Meath conflicts with the current County Development plan.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

An Bord Pleanála granted EirGrid plc. permission under Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, for a North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development. Meath County Council’s role now is to ensure compliance with the conditions set out in the permission if and when the company proceeds to implement the permission.

It is a matter for the applicant to obtain the consent of the affected landowners for access. While the Council will have some role in determining the suitability or otherwise of public road access, the question of entry onto and through private property is a matter between the landowners and the company.

Council officials met with colleagues in Monaghan and Cavan County Councils to ensure a common approach to compliance amongst the three local authorities, once the project commences. To date, no Commencement Notice has been lodged. The conditions attached to the permission requires the company to agree a number of matters prior to commencement of development but to date there has been no submissions, discussion or agreement on any of these conditions (Conditions 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9). All documentation received and replies issued as part of the compliance process will be public documents and will be available to any interested person as part of the planning compliance file. There is no requirement to place individual planning



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

permissions as a standing item on the monthly Council agenda, and it would not be appropriate to do so in relation to planning compliance correspondence. Planning officials are available at any time to advise Councillors and/or the public on what compliance correspondence has been lodged. If and when a Commencement Notice is received Councillors will be informed.

The decision to grant this project was made by An Bord Pleanála and reaffirmed by way of judicial review. Therefore, it would not serve any purpose to now prepare a report on how the project complies or otherwise with the current County Development Plan. The Planning Department currently has an ambitious programme of statutory plans to be advanced this year, including the statutory review of the County Plan and is dealing with an increase of over 21% in new applications. We could not justify diverting scarce resources from this statutory work to analyse the C.D.P. in relation to this application that has already been decided, or to prepare a report that can now have no bearing on the decisions of the Board or the Courts.

The supporting information was accepted and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Paul McCabe** and seconded by **Councillor Sean Drew**, was noted.

9.6 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Keogan

“Calling on Meath County Council to use the Law Enforcement Directive to access information from Household Waste Disposal Companies with regard to those complying or not complying with the Law under the Waste Management Act.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

The Law Enforcement Directive (LED) which was transposed into Irish domestic law through the Data Protection Act 2018 deals with the processing of personal data by data controllers for law enforcement purposes which falls outside the scope of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

While discussions are ongoing between the Regional Waste Management Plan Offices and the Data Commissioners Office in respect of GDPR issues associated with waste enforcement, it is considered that the LED will provide sufficient scope for Local Authorities as competent authorities to process information in such enforcement cases. The Data Protection Commission is also the supervisory authority for LED.

In particular, the aforementioned discussions are focusing on the processing of information relating to the Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye-laws which were adopted by local authorities in 2018. These Bye Laws, which are primarily intended to give additional powers to Local Authorities to



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

target persistent offenders who do not have appropriate arrangements in place for waste disposal, provide for a number of enforcement provisions including fines and fixed penalty notices.

It is also pointed out that all Companies involved in the collection of household or commercial waste must obtain a permit to do so, which is issued by the National Waste Collection Permit Office. Such permits include conditions which require the permit holder to retain and make available for inspection by the local authority of records of the collection service provided including customer details, types of waste collected, areas of collection etc.

The permit also requires the waste collector to provide for a separate food waste collection service for the collection of food waste from household customers in agglomerations of over 500 in accordance with 2015 Regulations. A number of prosecutions are pending by local authorities due to the failure of the collectors to provide this service.

The Local Authorities also have powers under the Waste Management Acts to investigate persons involved in Waste Collection activities, specifically under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended.

The supporting information was accepted and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden**, was noted.

9.7 Submitted by Councillor Deirdre Geraghty-Smith

“That this Council agrees to commence, as a matter of priority, and in conjunction with the NTA, Iarnród Éireann and other relevant bodies as necessary, a feasibility study into ‘Phase 2’ of the extension of the train line from the M3 Parkway at Pace to Dunshaughlin, recognising the recent and planned population growth in Co. Meath, the need for alternative means of public transport and the significant role that transport links have to play in attracting investment to the County.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

The review of the case for extending the rail line from M3 Parkway to Navan is included in the NTA’s Transport Strategy for the GDA 2016 – 2035 and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Region. The NTA Strategy states *‘The corridor previously identified for a rail link to Navan should be protected from development intrusion pending a re-evaluation, as part of the next Strategy review, of the likely future usage of such a rail connection, taking into account the level of development that will have taken place over the next six years in Navan and*



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Dunshaughlin and their environs, together with any additional or revised information on the future development potential of these areas then available. The RSES also includes an objective for the, *'Reappraisal of the extension of the Dunboyne/M3 Parkway line to Navan'*.

The Council notes that the Minister of Transport gave a written response on the 12th June 2019 to a similar question relating to the recommencement of work on the rail line to Navan and committed *"in light of the NTA's responsibility in the matter raised, I have referred the Deputy's question to the NTA for a direct reply."* Given the Minister's response and the above policy position, the Council will also write to the NTA to request details of the proposed review and when it is scheduled to commence. Their response will be circulated to Councillors in due course.

The supporting information was accepted and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Deirdre Geraghty-Smith** and seconded by **Councillor Aisling Dempsey**, was noted.

9.8 Submitted by Councillor Damien O' Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council to write to the Minister of Education and Skills, requesting his department to review and reassess the need for additional post primary schools and schools places in each town in the county."

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

As part of the review of the Meath County Development Plan, members of the Planning Department have met regularly with officials from the Department of Education and Science. The existing school provision for the County along with the expected population targets are discussed at these meetings. The Department is awaiting the publication of the draft Meath County Development Plan to allow it to make a formal submission on its requirements for school buildings and expansions, during the lifetime of the Plan.

Based on the supporting information, the motion, proposed by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**, was adopted.

9.9 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

"That Meath County Council asks the Department of Health to introduce Psychiatric Emergency Response Teams, ambulances dedicated only to mental health care, to counter the growing number of suicides in Meath and throughout the country."



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Niamh Souhan**, was adopted.

9.10 Submitted by Councillor Stephen McKee

“That Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment to introduce a ban on the sale, distribution and burning of smoky coal all across County Meath as soon as possible.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

The Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations 2012 prescribes the areas where there is a ban on the burning of smoky coal and other prohibited fuels in Low Smoke Zones (LSZs) and including in Navan and an area on the east coast in close proximity to Drogheda .

A proposal by the Government to extend the ban countrywide in the Autumn of this year has now been put on hold on foot of a threat of legal action by Companies involved in the coal trade. It is understood that the threat of such action is currently the subject of discussion with the Attorney General and we await developments in this regard.

The supporting information was accepted and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Stephen McKee** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**, was noted.

9.11 Submitted by Councillor Alan Lawes

“Calling on Meath County Council to ensure that immediately after the next local elections that the induction day for new Councillors is organised in a timely fashion before any meetings take place. This would allow all new Councillors a chance to familiarise themselves with the working of the Council.”

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Alan Lawes** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan Moore**, was adopted.

9.12 Submitted by Councillor Alan Lawes

“Calling on Meath County Council to introduce a new regime of regular inspection by Councillors of all facilities used by the Council as Emergency Accommodation”.

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

Emergency accommodation is provided on a temporary basis to those most at risk of homelessness and who are often vulnerable individuals with a myriad of complex



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

needs. The people concerned build up a relationship with Council's Settlement team who work with other teams within the Housing Department to provide more long term accommodation solutions. A couple of imminent developments are relevant in this regard.

1. The Mid East Region of which Meath is part ,will be participating in the Housing First model which is based on placing individuals in housing units with appropriate wrap around supports . A tender process will take place to identify who will provide the service on behalf of the region.
2. A new National Quality Standards Framework for Homeless Services in Ireland is being implemented with initial work commencing on 1st July 2019.

The Council's Settlement Team as part of its ongoing operations regularly visits properties which are used for emergency accommodation and can provide advice to the owner where shortcomings are identified. If complaints are received from a client regarding the accommodation this will be referred to the Settlement Team for appropriate follow up action.

The inspection of properties is an operational matter which is delegated to the appropriate staff and therefore is not something that would normally fall within the remit of the Elected Members. Moreover, given the requirement to deal sensitively with those vulnerable users of emergency accommodation, who may in some cases be experiencing tenancy sustainment issues, it is important that any inspection process reflects the need to maintain the privacy of the individuals concerned. This in no way impacts on the ability of an Elected Member to advocate on behalf of an individual at risk of homelessness or who may be experiencing issues with their accommodation and who has given the Elected Member the appropriate consent.

The supporting information was accepted and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Alan Lawes** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan Moore**, was noted.

10 Schedule of Chief Executive & Approved Orders (For information only)

- 10.1 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders - Transportation
- 10.2 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Environment
- 10.3 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Housing
- 10.4 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Community



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Noted by Councillors

11 Any Other Business