



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

5th November 2018, Council Chamber

Presiding

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tom Kelly

Councillors Present:

Councillors Joe Bonner, Sinead Burke, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Seán Drew, Edward Fennessy, Eimear Ferguson, Brian Fitzgerald, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Enda Flynn, Wayne Forde, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Trevor Golden, Johnny Guirke, Wayne Harding, Jim Holloway, Suzanne Jamal, Sharon Keogan, Nick Killian, Caroline Lynch, Stephen McKee, Ronan McKenna, Paddy Meade, Maria Murphy, Gerry O' Connor, Maria O' Kane, Damien O' Reilly, Darren O'Rourke, Bryan Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole.

Apologies: Councillors Claire O'Driscoll

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Jackie Maguire

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

Meetings' Administrator: Olive Falsey

Senior Executive Officers: Robert Collins, David Jones, Dara McGowan, Larry Whelan

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 1st October 2018.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 1st October 2018 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations



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Sympathy was extended to:

- Oliver Carey, Corporate Services, on the death of his mother, Bridget Judy Carey.
- Jimmy Lynch, Water Services, on the death of his brother, John Lynch.
- Brendan Fulham, Housing Department, on the death of his mother, Eileen Fulham.
- Mark Brodigan, A/GSS Laytown-Bettystown MD, on the death of his son, Cormac.
- The family of the late Paddy Duffy (senior advisor to former Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern).

Congratulations were extended to:

- All involved in the:
 - Spirits of Meath festival
 - Dowth Point to Point festival
 - Municipal District Pride of Place awards
 - Design, construction and launch of the coastal protection works in Laytown.
- The following GAA clubs and teams on their recent success:
 - Castlerahan, St. Michael's ladies team, Simonstown ladies team, Gael Colmcille, Ratoath senior camogie team, East Meath United u/13, Brian Carroll & Gary McConnell (St. Colmcille's handball club), Gary Rogers & Jamie McGrath, Dundalk Football Club, East Meath United U/13 & U12 teams.
- Michael D. Higgins on his election as President of Ireland.
- Hugh Weldon, Kilmessan, who was selected Young Champion of the Earth.
- Councillor Joe Bonner on winning the WEEE Champion Award for his work in organising recycling events.

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 note the NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2017.

Des Foley, Director of Services, provided information and noted that it was the fourth year of the NOAC Performance Indicator Report. It was also noted that the report referred to 2017. Councillors were advised that NOAC had noted improved performance based on 35 indicators and also highlighted areas where Local Authorities need to improve performance. It was noted that Meath was above the national average on the majority of indicators and that there were reasons where



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that was not the case. It was also noted that NOAC intends to examine the scope of grouping Local Authorities for comparative purposes, which would be welcomed.

- 5.1.2 To fill the casual vacancy (1 No.), following the resignation of Councillor Seán Smith in the Membership of Meath County Council, in accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

Item deferred.

5.2 Finance

- 5.2.1 To approve the raising of a loan of €2,500,000 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.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.

5.3 Community

- 5.3.1 To approve a replacement member of the Meath LCDC & LAG, Ita McGuigan, representing Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor David Gilroy** and seconded by **Cathaoirleach Councillor Tom Kelly**.

- 5.3.2 To receive a presentation on the Age Friendly Shared Service.

Catherine McGuigan, Age Friendly Officer, made a presentation which included information on:

- Key challenges and the progress since May 2017
- Programme positioning and strategic priorities
- Status of National Age Friendly Programmes
- Alignment to national policy
- Partner support
- Measuring monitoring and mentoring.

Following the presentation, Councillors raised a number of issues and responses were provided by Catherine McGuigan.



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6 Reports

6.1 Chief Executive's Report

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

Housing:

- The lack of available land for house building, particularly in Ratoath, Dunshaughlin and Dunboyne.
- Update requested on delivery timeframe of 40 houses in Kells.
- Information sought re the timeframe for the allocation of houses in Summerhill.
- Clarification sought re staff of Peter McVerry Trust.
- Homeless Service update welcomed. It was noted that links should be made with Meath Opportunities for Training, LMETB and Meath Community Drug and Alcohol Response.

Planning

- The comparative figures in relation to planning applications and development contributions were welcomed and noted.

Community:

- Update requested on the announcement of successful projects under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

Transportation

- Urgency of Slane Bypass noted.

Responses were provided on the issues raised by the Chief Executive and management team.

6.2 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 also noted the report from the Planning Economic Development and Enterprise SPC meeting held on 17th October and from the Transportation SPC meeting held on 25th October.

It was noted that a policy and procedure document for processing requests for Deployment of School Wardens was considered and would be put before the full Council for adoption at the December meeting.



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6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator advised as follow:

- A list of conferences relevant to the business of the Council was approved and reports from Councillors who attended recent conferences were noted.
- The Meetings Administrator advised that both the CPG and Protocol Committees considered the forthcoming schedule of Council meetings up to February 2019, including the requirement to hold a special planning meeting before the 23rd January. A proposal to defer the full Council meeting in January to February was debated. It was agreed that the matter would be further discussed with the Whips and a final decision made at the December meeting.

The report from the Protocol Committee was noted by the Councillors.

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 LG 03/2018 – Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government re. Adjustments to Elected Members' Representational Payment with effect from 1 October 2018 arising from the Public Service Stability Agreement 2018-2020.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.2 Correspondence from the Minister for Health in response to Notice of Motion 9.2 adopted at the July 2018 meeting of the full Council re. national awareness campaign on aspirin use.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.3 Correspondence from the National Transport Authority in response to Notice of Motion 9.4 adopted at the October 2018 meeting of the full Council re. public transport issues.

Councillor Gillian Toole expressed her dissatisfaction with the response and requested that a follow-up letter would be issued inviting the NTA to the December meeting of the Council.

8 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden



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“Given delays and recent developments with the NBP, does Meath County Council have any contingency plans to assist rural communities/groups access broadband services or to assist operators provide service?”

Response

Meath County Council, through the Broadband Officer, has been engaging with mobile phone companies to identify black spot areas, and to work with them to improve mobile phone and broadband services across the county. Possible sites on Meath County Council land have been put forward and are being reviewed and progressed where a match to need and site suitability is found.

Several new sites on private lands have been completed in the last year and others are currently in development. The companies have all expressed an interest in developing further sites across the county. If any Councillor is interested in helping to improve services in their area by identifying possible locations, information on targeted black spot areas is available from the Broadband Officer.

For the safety and security of rural residents, as well as to improve their capabilities for social and economic growth, Co. Meath will need to improve its mobile phone and broadband coverage. In order to do this, additional mast sites are needed to improve coverage.

Meath County Council will also apply for funding to provide free public Wi-Fi access in centres of public life through the WIFI4EU programme.

Noted by the Councillors.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Nick Killian

“Can the Chief Executive please outline the number of electric car charging points in County Meath. Furthermore, can a map of these electric points be prepared for the public. What plans are in place to extend these electric car charging points throughout the County of Meath?”

Response

ESB have an interactive map showing over 1100 charging points in Ireland at the following link <https://www.esb.ie/our-businesses/ecars/charge-point-map>. The ESB also have an 'ecar connect' app for [Apple](#) and [Android](#) devices to assist the public in locating their nearest charging point.

Excluding charging points available at service stations and private retail sites, there are 4 No. charging points in Kells; 6 No. in Navan; 4 No. in Trim; 2 No. in Bettystown; 2 No. in Dunboyne; 2No. in Enfield. These are located on-street and in publicly available car parks.



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In June 2018, Meath County Council launched its Climate Action Plan. It includes the most recent statement of the Council's intentions in relation to electric vehicles and charging points. Relevant actions include the following:

- M3.1 Retrofit of charging points in towns in and around Meath.
- M3.2 Promote EVs to residents. Indicators to be agreed with SEAI.
- M3.4 Parking permits and reduced charges based on vehicle emissions.
- M3.5 Increase Parking space privileges for car club/ EV vehicles.
- M3.6 To support the growth of electric vehicles and EBikes and supporting facilities, through a roll-out of additional electric charging points in collaboration with relevant agencies at appropriate locations.
- P7.1 To facilitate the provision of electricity charging infrastructure for electric vehicles both on street and in new developments in accordance with car parking standards.

Projects such as the Navan 2030 will make provision for EV charging. Note also that SEAI offer grants of up to €600 towards the purchase and installation of home charging units.

Noted by the Councillors.

9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden

"To help promote recycling at our recycling centres and reduce illegal dumping, we ask Meath County Council to consider introducing measures such as loyalty programmes, household credits or regular free recycling days for households in Meath."

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

The operation of the Council's three Civic Amenity Sites at Navan, Kells and Trim is the subject of a three year contract with Oxigen, which expires at the end of 2018. The contract provides various incentives that promote greater usage of the three sites, and also requires the operators to engage in extensive education and awareness initiatives to promote recycling and other sound environmental practices.

In order to facilitate the public to the greatest extent possible, a number of trials have been conducted in relation to the opening hours at the centres. However, the current opening hours of 8.30am to 4.45pm Monday – Saturday have been found to meet the needs of the majority of visitors to the site.

In recent years, the Environment Department, in collaboration with the operators, has held a number of successful events in the three sites, which found great favour with the



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public, including a free mattress 'drop off day' in July of this year, resulting in approximately 500 mattresses being brought to the Kells Recycling centre. This initiative was funded under the Anti Dumping Initiative and it is believed that some of these would otherwise have been dumped.

A trial food waste project was held over a number of months in Navan where participants gained free access to the site. It is pointed out that persons wishing to drop off waste electrical, electronic equipment (WEEE) are exempt from the €3 entry fee. A free toy drop off was held in 2017 in the three sites where large volumes of recyclable materials were delivered to the sites. A farm hazardous waste collection day was held in Kells recycling centre last year.

A number of new initiatives are now being considered, some of which will tie in with the award of a new contract for the operation of the sites for the next four years – these include:

- The introduction of a compulsory loyalty scheme which will reward regular users of the sites and encourage additional users.
- Subject to approval as part of the estimates process, a possible review of the entry fee to the three sites.
- A free couch recycling day at Kells Recycling Centre on Saturday 17th November with further household bulky waste events to follow in 2019, as part of the Anti Dumping Campaign – (such events to be strongly advertised and promoted and aimed to dissuade the public from giving such goods to Man in the Van Type Operators.)
- A further 'toy drop off' day to be held in each of the three sites in December.
- Farm tyre waste collection day similar to a very successful event held recently in Cootehill, Co Cavan.
- New signage at each site highlighting what is included in your gate fee, and which waste streams involve extra costs, with up to date leaflets and leaflet holder attached to signs.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Trevor Golden** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**, was adopted subjected to the supporting information provided.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke

"This Council recognizes the challenges faced by those with intellectual and physical disabilities who are seeking part-time paid work and acknowledges the important differences securing employment would make to this group. Meath County Council will initiate a discussion with Prosper Meath and other relevant groups to explore the possibility of introducing a pilot part-time work placement for these groups clients across Council offices / Aithníonn an Chomhairle seo na dúshláin a chuireann iadsan le míchumais intleachtúla agus fisiciúla aghaidh orthu ag cuardach oibre páirt-aimseartha



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íoctha agus aithníonn sí an thabhacht a bhainfí le fostaíocht don ghrúpa seo. Cuirfidh Comhairle Chontae na Mí tús le plé le Prosper Meath agus grúpaí leasmhara eile chun imscrúdú a dhéanamh ar na féidearthachtaí maidir le scéim shocrúcháin oibre páirt-aimseartha píolótach do chliant na ngrúpaí seo in oifigí na Comhairle.”

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

Meath County Council is an equal opportunities employer and has historically facilitated, and will continue to accommodate, applications for jobs and work placements from candidates from a range of backgrounds. This is managed by the HR Department by way of recruitment and selection policies, and procedures. The Council currently employs staff members with disabilities across our range of service areas/departments.

The current main area of priority for the Council’s HR Department is on ensuring that the Council is appropriately resourced, from a staffing perspective, so that we can deliver on our current and planned service/business requirements. This is done, while conscious of the requirement to support and encourage work opportunities either in mainstream positions, or by way of work placements etc. While the Council is not in a position to commence a pilot programme at present, it may be considered in future work programmes.

It is noted that there is active engagement with Prosper Meath at a Municipal District level, and at county level, on various matters including accessibility issues in our towns. This partnership process is proving to be successful in addressing particular issues highlighted by Prosper Meath for people with disabilities.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Sinéad Burke** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**, was adopted subject to the supporting information provided.

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Damien O’Reilly

“I call on Meath County Council to appoint a Graveyard Officer to deal with the allocations of plots around the county.”

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

While 120 of the 231 burial grounds in the county are vested in the Council, the Council is only involved in the day to day running of 4 burial grounds in Navan i.e. (St. Finian’s), Ashbourne, Duleek and Derrockstown Dunshaughlin. In respect of same, the Council carries out management and maintenance roles, as well as the allocation of plots through a booking system operated by the Municipal District offices.



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All the other burial grounds are managed and maintained by various groups, including the local parishes, community groups, graveyard committees etc. and often with financial assistance from the Council through amenity, lawnmower or graveyard maintenance grants, which are administered by the Community Department. The allocation of plots in these burial grounds rests entirely with these groups and is undertaken in a very efficient and effective manner that rarely necessitates any Council intervention.

In such circumstances, it is submitted that there is currently no business requirement for the appointment of a Graveyard Officer to administer the allocation of plots.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Damien O' Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

Following a lengthy discussion and based on the supporting information, the motion was noted.

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

"Recognising the process and particulars of Local Government funding as inherently problematic and unsatisfactory, this Council calls on the Government, either by way of extension of scope of the current Local Property Tax Review or by separate independent review, to conduct a full and comprehensive review of Local Government funding in Ireland in order to move towards a more efficient and effective system better reflective of the important role of Local Authorities in 21st Century Ireland / An próiseas agus faoi mar a fheidhmíonn cistiúcháin na Rialtas áitiúil aitheanta a bheith amach 's amach lochtach agus neamhshásúil, glaíonn an Chomhairle seo ar an Rialtas, trí leathnú réimse an athbhreithnithe ar Cháin Maoine Áitiúla nó trí athbhreithniú neamhspleách, athbhreithniú iomlán agus cuimsitheach ar chistiúcháin na Rialtas áitiúil in Éirinn a dhéanamh ar mhaithe le bogadh i dtreo córas níos éifeachtaí a léiríonn tábhacht na Rialtas áitiúil in Éirinn na 21ú Aoise."

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Darren O' Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson** was unanimously adopted.

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



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10.4 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Community

Noted by the Councillors.

11 Any Other Business

- Clarification was sought on the role of the Veterinary Officer.
- **Councillor Wayne Forde** outlined his concern in relation to the emergency department at Navan hospital.