



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

### *Ordinary Meeting*

*3<sup>rd</sup> December 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, Padraig Fitzsimons, Enda Flynn, Wayne Forde, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Trevor Golden, Johnny Guirke, Wayne Harding, Jim Holloway, Sharon Keogan, Nick Killian, Caroline Lynch, Stephen McKee, Ronan McKenna, Paddy Meade, Maria Murphy, Gerry O' Connor, Claire O'Driscoll, Damien O' Reilly, Bryan Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Maria Uí Ruairc, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole, Conor Tormey.

**Apologies:** Cllrs. Suzanne Jamal, Darren O'Rourke

#### **Officials in attendance:**

**Chief Executive:** Jackie Maguire

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

**Meetings' Administrator:** Olive Falsey

**Senior Executive Officers:** Robert Collins, Dara McGowan, Larry Whelan

### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Bryan Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Johnny Guirke**.



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

### 1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Preliminary Budget meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

The minutes of the Preliminary Budget meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O' Connor**.

### 1.3 Confirmation of minutes of Statutory Budget meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

The minutes of the Statutory Budget meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna**.

## 2 Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising.

It was agreed to bring forward item 5.1.1: 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.

Conor Tormey was proposed to fill the casual vacancy by **Councillor Wayne Hrding**, and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna**. As no other proposals were put forward, the Cathaoirleach deemed the casual vacancy to be filled and invited **Councillor Tormey** to take his seat. **Councillor Tormey** acknowledged the work and commitment of former Councillor Seán Smith and thanked his party colleagues, the staff of the Council and his political opponents for their support. The party Whips extended a warm welcome to **Councillor Tormey** and wished him well in the future.

## 3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Cyril Fleming, former employee
- The family of the late Patrick (Pat) Daly, former employee in the Library Service
- The family of the late Stephanie Martin, employee in the Library Service
- David Weldon & Lynne O' Malley, Corporate Services, former employee Johnny Weldon and Enda Weldon (Corporate Services-Facilities Management) on the death of their father/brother/uncle, P.J. Weldon



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

- Finbar Quigley, Environment Department, on the death of his father, Basil Quigley
- The family of the late Larry Campbell, employee in Navan Municipal District
- The family of the late Conor Hickey, Duleek.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Slane on being awarded Ireland's Friendliest Village and Kells on being awarded Enterprise town
- The Housing department on exceeding targets in 2018
- The Community department on securing Outdoor Recreation Grant Scheme €500,000
- Kilmessan and Ratoath clubs on their success in the All Ireland Camogie finals
- All recipients of awards at the Meath Business and Tourism Awards
- Garden City and Crestwood Residents Association on winning All Island Pride of Place Award, and Julianstown for qualifying for the awards
- All associated with the Ledwidge Centenary committee on winning Excellence in Local Government Award
- The support of the Council for International Disabled Persons Day
- Cllr. Tolan on being appointed as Chair of LMETB.

#### **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 (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.

See above

- 5.1.2 To adopt the Municipal District Allocation Scheme Protocol – 2019.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

##### **5.2 Finance**



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

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

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O' Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

### **5.3 Environment**

- 5.3.1 To provide an update on the Climate Action Strategy and Climate Action Regional Office.

Caroline Corrigan made a presentation which included information on:

- Climate change in Ireland and in Meath
- Extreme weather events
- Climate Events/Trends in Eastern & Midlands Region
- Benefits of tackling climate change
- National & Regional Obligations
- Eastern & Midlands Region - Challenges
- Challenges for County Meath, progress to date and next steps.

Following the presentation, Councillors welcomed the information and raised a number of issues. Responses were provided by Caroline Corrigan on the matters raised.

### **5.4 Transportation**

- 5.4.1 To consider the submissions/objections received in response to the display of the "Draft" Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits), County of Meath Bye-Laws and to resolve to make the said Bye-Laws in accordance with the Draft document subject to such variations or amendments as considered appropriate, and that said Bye-Laws shall come into force on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

## **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:



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### **Housing:**

- Update requested on delivery timeframe of houses in Kells, Summerhill, Rathmolyon and Bettystown Phase 2
- Information sought re possible housing uses of an old school building in Trim
- Request for information on the locations (by Municipal District) of the 50 housing acquisitions
- More detailed information on the reporting of homeless figures requested
- Emergency accommodation updates welcomed but problems of addiction and the need for assistance noted
- Progress re the achievement of housing targets noted, but concern expressed re the lack of Council land to build houses.

### **Environment**

- The progress re the planning application for the provision of 7 Slipways was welcomed.
- Concern expressed re Irish Water's commitment re capital funding for the Staleen pipeline.

### **Community:**

Approval of Clár applications totalling €226,440 was welcomed.

### **Transportation**

- TII approval to progress the planning and design of Rath to Kilmoon section of N2 welcomed.
- Update requested on the timeframe of safety improvement works on R155 at Glascarn lane.

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 reports from the Environmental SPC meeting held on 23rd November and from the Housing, Community and Cultural SPC meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November.

The CPG also considered and approved the recommendation of the Housing Community and Cultural SPC in regard to the draft Low Cost Private Site Scheme. It was noted that the scheme would be considered by the full Council at the February meeting.

- 6.2.1 To approve, as agreed by the CPG, on the recommendation of the Transportation SPC, a policy and procedure document for processing requests for deployment of School Wardens.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

A lengthy discussion took place on the matter. **Councillor Enda Flynn** proposed 2 amendments to the section in the document on 'Existing Sites' as follows:

- to amend the wording in regard to temporarily vacant sites as follows:  
*'where resources permit, the Council will endeavour to provide a school warden service to cover any site that becomes temporarily vacant due to an absence at the site'*
- to amend the sentence *The School will then be required to provide notification ....*by replacing the word '*required*' with the word '*requested*'

The amendments were seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade** and the policy was duly approved, on the proposal of **Councillor Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Enda Flynn**, subject to two amendments being made to the document.

### 6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator advised as follow:

- A motion referred to the committee was considered i.e. that the Council would commemorate and celebrate the centenary of the founding of the first Dáil on 21<sup>st</sup> January with an appropriate ceremony, and recognise the contribution of Deputies Éamonn Duggan and Liam Mellows.
- Following a discussion on the matter, it was agreed to recommend to the full Council that a ceremony would be arranged at Buvinda House on 21<sup>st</sup> January to commemorate the centenary of the first Dáil, and that a commemorative plaque in honour of Deputies Duggan and Mellows would be erected in the 1916 commemorative garden.
- A list of conferences relevant to the business of the Council was approved and reports from Councillors who attended recent conferences were noted.

The recommendations of the Protocol Committee were approved on the proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor David Gilroy**.

## **7 Correspondence**

- 7.1 Correspondence from the Office of the Minister, Department of Finance in response to Notice of Motion 9.7 adopted at the September 2018 meeting of the full Council re. sale



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

of loans.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.2 Correspondence from TII re. N2 Rath roundabout to Kilmoon Cross.

Noted by the Councillors.

- 7.3 LG 04/2018 – Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government re. Domestic subsistence allowances for Elected Members.

Noted by the Councillors.

### **8 Notice of Question**

#### **8.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding**

*“Can I ask the Chief Executive if there is a policy to build one-off housing on Council owned lands for people with disabilities who meet the criteria for such accommodation in a rural setting?”*

#### **Response**

Meath County Council’s Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with a Disability aims to promote and support the delivery of accommodation for people with disabilities, using all appropriate housing supply mechanisms, as well as supporting longer term strategic planning.

The focus is on ensuring that the appropriate housing stock is available to cater for the needs of social housing applicants with a disability as they reach allocation stage. This is pursued through making provisions for disability within our direct construction projects, acquisition programme, Approved Housing Body delivery and opportunities through Part V where possible.

Given current costs associated with the provision of one-off housing units, and the associated Departmental unit cost ceilings for same, the option of providing one-off housing units, for whatever purposes, is not a viable option from a funding perspective at this time.

Noted by the Councillors.

#### **8.2 Submitted by Councillor Darren O’Rourke**



## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

*“To ask the Chief Executive how much Meath County Council has spent on emergency accommodation to date in 2018; how this compares to the same period for 2017 and 2016; and for a breakdown by accommodation type/ Ceist a chur ar an bPríomhfheidhmeannach cé mhéad a chaith Comhairle Chontae na Mí ar lóistín éigeandála i 2018 go dtí seo. An féidir compóráid a dhéanamh leis an tréimhse céanna i 2017 agus 2016 agus é a roinnt de réir cineál lóistín.”*

### **Response**

Outlined below is the expenditure incurred by Meath County Council on emergency accommodation for the period 2016-2018.

Please note that the figures recorded for 2016 and 2017 represents expenditure for the respective full year.

| <b><i>Expenditure on Emergency Accommodation 2016-2018</i></b> |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <i>January - December 2016</i>                                 | <i>€778,808</i>   |
| <i>January - December 2017</i>                                 | <i>€889,251</i>   |
| <i>January - November 2018</i>                                 | <i>€1,021,582</i> |

A breakdown of expenditure according to emergency accommodation type is not readily available, however, expenditure does relate to a number of accommodation types including private landlords, B&Bs/Hotels and homeless hostels (Drogheda Homeless Aid).

Noted by the Councillors.

## **9 Notice of Motion**

### **9.1 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Keogan**

*“That this Council will have a uniform roadside memorial symbol to mark areas where sudden or accidental deaths have occurred within our county. “*

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

There is currently no protocol in place for roadside memorials. It is noted that the Council often receives requests to erect memorials on dangerous stretches of roads, especially at locations where there may have been a number of accidents in the past.





## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

The installation of such roadside memorials may present risks to road users, as well as to people visiting the location of a tragic accident. It is suggested that the above motion should be referred to the Transportation SPC for further consideration.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Sharon Keogan** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** was referred to the Transportation SPC for consideration.

### **9.2 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch**

*“Meath County Council calls on Bus Éireann to immediately relocate the bus stop on slip road at Blanchardstown to improve the safety for passengers coming back to County Meath / Éilíonn Comhairle Chontae na Mí ar Bhus Éireann an stad bhus ar an sliosbhóthar i mBaile Bhláinséir a athlonnú go práinneach ar mhaithe le cúrsaí slándála a fheabhsú do pháisinéirí ag teacht ar ais go Contae na Mí.”*

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Sinead Burke** 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

10.4 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Community

Noted by the Councillors.

## **11 Any Other Business**