



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Trim Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

2:00 p.m., 20th September, 2019, Trim Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Noel French**, presided.

Councillors Present: Aisling Dempsey, Joe Fox, Trevor Golden, Ronan Moore, Niamh Souhan.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Des Foley

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Maura Daly

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 12th July, 2019.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12th July, 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Trevor Golden** and seconded by **Councillor Aisling Dempsey**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Trevor Golden requested clarification on permitted car parking in loading bays – it was pointed out that the information had been circulated by email, whereby cars cannot park in loading bays between 9am and 6pm Monday to Saturday, as per the time plates in place, but can park there at all other times.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Des Foley on the death of his father, John.



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Congratulations were extended to:

- Donna Pringle, Assistant Engineer, on the birth of her baby son;
- Trim Tourism Network on the Salmon of Knowledge Festival;
- Those involved in the Royal Meath Show.

Councillor Noel French provided an update on a number of trips he had made as Cathaoirleach of Trim Municipal District, including to Belgium and Boyne City, Michigan. He also referred to the presentation made in July as part of the town twinning initiative with Etrepagny.

4 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

- 4.1 This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Aisling Dempsey**.
- 4.2 This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Aisling Dempsey**.
- 4.3 This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Aisling Dempsey**.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

- 5.1.1 To receive an update on works completed/ planned within Trim Municipal District.

The report had been circulated in advance and it was pointed out that a report on the pedestrian environment in the vicinity of Marcy's Bridge would be circulated to councillors once completed.

Matters raised by councillors included:



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- Welcomed the provision of Age Friendly parking spaces.
- Requested that a crossing/warning light be provided at Trim playground – there are already a number of signs in place but it was agreed to check this.
- Referred to issues with manhole covers, e.g. High Street – a number of covers are to be addressed and it was agreed to deal with High Street first.
- Requested an update on the provision of a footpath to the pre-school in Enfield – this is in the 2019 programme of footpath works.
- Referred to issues of speeding on the Johnstown Road into Enfield – enforcement of speed limits by the Gardaí is required.
- Requested an update on the pedestrian crossings at the Post Office – it was pointed out that the contractor was back on site to address a number of issues but that, whilst slowed, traffic was still getting through and it was now an improved shared environment.
- The possibility of providing a yellow junction box at Boyne Community School – it was agreed to check this but that a No Parking sign would be more appropriate.
- Welcomed the works in Longwood but queried the measures provided at the church – it was pointed out that the path was removed from the road.
- The possibility of undertaking measures similar to those in Market Street at the Loman Street/Haggard Street junction with road markings only – it was agreed to check this with regard to courtesy crossings.
- The need to renew the road markings on the High Street crossing.
- The need to prune trees where public lights are being obstructed – works will commence in a couple of months.



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- Expressed concerns regarding the filling station on the Kinnegad Road, Clonard where there is no delineation between the road and where the forecourt ends.
- Requested clarification on why there are no continuous white lines on junctions on the Summerhill to Trim Road, unlike the Summerhill to Kilcock Road where all junctions have continuous white lines – it was agreed to request clarification from the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport.
- The possibility of reviewing the parking spaces to improve visibility at the AIB junction on Market Street, including the possible removal of one of the loading bays.
- The need to ensure signs are clearly visible and unobstructed.
- The possibility of raising the pedestrian crossing to the side of Johnstown N.S. – it was agreed to check this.

Reference was also made to a petition received expressing opposition to the planned surfacing of the existing walkway in the Porchfields, for which funding had been received and assessments undertaken. It was confirmed that works are due to commence in the coming weeks and that responses will issue to those who had made the submission. Councillors welcomed the works and the improved accessibility.

5.2 Planning

- 5.2.1 To receive a presentation on the proposed Variation No.1 (to incorporate the key tenets of the Economic Development Strategy for County Meath 2014 – 2022, as they relate to land-use planning) to the Trim Development Plan 2014-2020, together with the Chief Executive's report on submissions.

Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner and Seán Clarke, Senior Executive Officer, Planning attended the meeting and outlined the submissions received in respect of the proposed Variation No. 1. It was advised that the proposal would go to the full council for adoption in October.



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This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Trevor Golden** and seconded by **Councillor Aisling Dempsey**.

5.2.2 To consider taking in charge of the following and the making of a declaration that the roads within the developments shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2018.

- Earlsmeadow Phase 3, Ballivor.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden**.

- Castle Close Housing Estate, Trim.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden**.

- Bellview Court Housing Estate, Kildalkey.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**.

- Amber Wood Housing Estate, Ballivor.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan Moore**.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Niamh Souhan

“What is the current situation with regard to the ESB Building in Enfield, Co Meath?”

Response:



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Meath County Council have agreed a purchase cost for the old ESB site in Enfield and Meath County Council's Law Agent is currently working with the OPW's legal representation, preparing the transfer documentation.

The response was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Aisling Dempsey

“Can Meath County Council provide information on the number of school wardens assigned to Trim Municipal District and their locations, confirm the policy that applies in relation to the appointment and deployment of school wardens and whether adequate measures, such as signage and traffic calming measures, are implemented to ensure, as is reasonably possible, the safety of our children where wardens have been removed?”

Response:

There are currently two School Wardens assigned to the Trim MD; one is based in Trim on St Patrick St and the other is based in Enfield at the Main Street/Johnstown Bridge Road (signalised) junction.

Meath County Council Transportation SPC developed a policy document for processing requests for deployment of School Wardens (copy attached here for convenience) which was adopted at the Transportation SPC meeting on 25th October 2018. In February 2019, the CPG, on the recommendation of the Transportation SPC, adopted this policy and procedure document. I can confirm that the recommendations for road markings and advance warning signage are in place at all schools in Trim MD.

While there appears to be no comprehensive guidelines published in Ireland with regard to the need or otherwise to provide School Wardens the Council has reviewed a document published by Road Safety Great Britain entitled School Crossing Patrol Service Guidelines November 2015. The design philosophy outlined in this guidance is that the School Warden is just one of a number of options available to the roads engineer to manage traffic along with zebra or pelican crossing and signal controlled crossings. This guide considers that a signalled controlled crossing is the safest form of control and recommends that where signalled control crossings are provided that a School warden should not be provided in the same location.



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It should be noted that recruiting and maintaining staff in School Warden positions can be a challenge for local authorities. Of particular concern is the situation where a position can become vacant at short notice through illness or other unplanned event. When this occurs it can present challenges to the local authority, school, parents or guardians to be prepared - notwithstanding the challenges presented to the local authority to provide cover in the short term which can impact negatively on the other planned works or services in the district.

The Council continues to liaise with schools in the district including attendance by the Council's Road Safety Officer at meetings in the school with both children and teachers. The school and the Council also consult with the school bus service providers where necessary resulting in changes to the bus routes to encourage safer pick up/drop off procedures.

The response was noted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Ronan Moore

"With regard to the former ESB building and associated landholding in Enfield, can Meath County Council provide an update for the proposed usage; whether funds might be made available by the council to refurbish said building for the purposes of a community space and community building project; and are there building/engineer/architect plans of said building that may be viewed?"

Response:

Meath County Council have agreed a purchase cost for the old ESB site in Enfield and Meath County Council's Law Agent is currently working with the OPW's legal representation, preparing the transfer documentation. Meath County Council are currently preparing a tender for the design of the adjoining Park & Ride facility. Funding has been provided for these two elements of the proposed project.

In relation to further works to develop the Park & Ride facility and carry out improvement works to the building, funding will have to be sought when the extent of the works are known. There are currently no plans prepared for the development of the building.

The response was noted.



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7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Aisling Dempsey

"That Meath County Council considers, at least, the temporary instatement of a school warden at Kildalkey N.S. until such time as the issue in relation to the pedestrian crossing at the school is resolved and also the reinstatement of the warden at Dangan N.S. until alternative arrangements can be made."

Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

Kildalkey School: Please note that this is a new school build and as such a Contractor was appointed by the school authorities and not Meath County Council. Construction of the footpath and crossings remain the responsibility of the school authorities. Notwithstanding that I have requested that the Contractor return to site as a matter of urgency in order to complete the works on the footpaths and pedestrian crossings. I have also requested that the Planning Department of Meath County Council inspect the site and follow up with the Contractor as necessary.

Unfortunately, there are no resources available at this time to deploy a temporary school warden to this location. Meath County Council Transportation SPC developed a policy document for processing requests for deployment of School Wardens (copy attached here for convenience) which was adopted at the Transportation SPC meeting on 25th October 2018. In February 2019, the CPG, on the recommendation of the Transportation SPC, adopted this policy document.

Dangan School: The School Warden Service at Dangan School has been provided by staff assigned to the Trim Municipal District for the last 5 years. In 2018 when the position became vacant a General Operative provided cover in addition to their normal duties. Recruiting and maintaining staff in School Warden positions can be a challenge for local authorities. Of particular concern is the situation where a position can become vacant at short notice through illness or other unplanned event. When this occurs it can present challenges to the local authority, school, parents or guardians to be prepared - notwithstanding the challenges presented to the local authority to provide cover in the short term which can impact negatively on the other planned works or services in the district.



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While there appears to be no comprehensive guidelines published in Ireland with regard to the need or otherwise to provide School Wardens the Council has reviewed a document published by Road Safety Great Britain entitled School Crossing Patrol Service Guidelines November 2015. The design philosophy outlined in this guidance is that the School Warden is just one of a number of options available to the roads engineer to manage traffic along with zebra or pelican crossing and signal controlled crossings. This guide considers that a signalled controlled crossing is the safest form of control and recommends that where signalled control crossings are provided that a School warden should not be provided in the same location.

The Council have liaised with the school in Dangan over the past 12 months with regard to changes at the crossing point including attendance by the Council's Road Safety Officer at a meeting in the school. The school and the Council have also consulted with the school bus service provider and Bus Eireann resulting in changes to the bus route which has allowed the bus service to drop off and pick up the school children on the school side of the public road, thereby reducing the number of children having to cross the road.

The signalised crossing was installed in 2018. The Council provided a General Operative to operate and monitor the crossing since then until the new layout became established. Over the summer break periodic speed limits have been established which are programmed to switch on at school opening and pickup times to display the 50km/hr speed limit applicable at those times. The crossing point has been narrowed with the traffic signals adjusted accordingly to shorten the crossing length and to narrow the road cross section – this changes drivers' perception of the road and encourages compliance with the speed limits. Additional bollards, signs and road markings have also been provided at the site.

Council staff have observed the operation of the crossing since the school opened and did not observe any issues with regard to speeding in the vicinity of the crossing or non compliance with the traffic signals.

There are no plans at this time to deploy a temporary school warden to this location; however it is the Council's intention over the coming weeks as soon as traffic counters become available to set the counters up close to the crossing point to monitor traffic speeds. If traffic speeds are deemed to be non-compliant then the measures currently in place will be reviewed further.



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The motion was proposed by **Councillor Aisling Dempsey** and seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden**.

A discussion followed, outlining the need for school wardens, including interim deployments, at these locations until such time as the relevant parties can agree a solution at Kildalkey. Reference was also made to the vacancy that has arisen in Trim. It was suggested that the Department of Education & Skills should be responsible for putting in place appropriate measures as part of the planning application process but the difficulties with this were highlighted. The need to address the lighting at Kildalkey was underlined and a meeting is planned to try and resolve the related issues.

The motion was adopted.

8 Correspondence

8.1 Correspondence received from Jo Webb.

The correspondence was noted. It was agreed that the group would be invited to meet with councillors prior to the October scheduled municipal district meeting.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Trevor Golden** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox** to change the date of the October meeting to Friday 11th October.

9.2 Councillor Noel French raised the following issues:

9.2.1 Requested an update on the provision of a School Warden on Patrick Street, Trim.

9.2.2 The need for additional pedestrian crossings on the Dublin Road to facilitate access to bus stops from nearby residential developments.

9.2.3 Referred to forthcoming events, including the Municipal District Pride of Place Awards and the civic awards.



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9.2.4 Requested that support be given to the forthcoming Puca workshop, the launch of the Trim Trad Festival and Climate Action workshop.

9.3 Dara McGowan raised the following issues:

9.3.1 Outlined the changes made to the proposals for the work in the Porchfields, for which planning permission would be sought and implementation phased.

9.3.2 Confirmed that the Part 8 for the theatre project was completed and the funding decision should be announced by the end of October.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach