



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

### *Ordinary Meeting*

*7<sup>th</sup> October 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, Darren O'Rourke, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Amanda Smith, Niamh Souhan, Alan Tobin, Emer Tóibín, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole, Conor Tormey.

#### **Apologies:**

#### **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, Seán Clarke, David Jones

### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2019

**Councillor Gerry O'Connor** proposed a correction to the minutes regarding the expression of congratulations to Fionn Foley for his show at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**.

### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

**Councillor Maria Murphy** informed the meeting about a recent visit to a Direct Provision Centre, referring to the Motion tabled at the September meeting and which has been referred to the Housing, Community and Cultural SPC.



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

### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended to:

- Frank Smyth, GO, Laytown Depot on the death of his brother, Brendan Smyth;
- The family and friends of Fintan Ginnity, former Chairman of the Meath County Board.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Kells Handball Club - Brian Carroll/Gary McConnell, All-Ireland Senior Doubles Champions
- Clann na Gael as Intermediate Hurling Champions
- Dunshaughlin Harvest Festival Organising Committee
- Tidy Towns Groups across the county, with special mention for the medallists from Trim, Moynalty and Athboy but also Dunboyne, Johnstown
- Meath County Council Library Service for the Dunshaughlin Culture Night
- Meath County Council Climate Action Team for the Climate Action Roadshows
- An Cathaoirleach (Age Friendly Shared Service) and Councillor Gilroy (Athboy Walkability Survey) for the Innovation in Politics Awards nominations
- County Meath Chamber of Commerce for the Jobs Expo
- Meath Ladies Football Team for reaching the All-Ireland Intermediate Final;
- Donaghmore-Ashbourne Club – football and junior camogie teams
- Simonstown Ladies for winning the senior County Championship against Dunboyne
- Duleek Revival Programme for its Gum Litter Taskforce Award
- Pride of Place Winners in Kells
- Mattock Rangers winning the Louth Intermediate Championships
- Meath County Council officials for the presentation to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Transport, Tourism and Sport on traffic issues in Julianstown
- Meath County Council outdoor staff – preventative action in advance of Storm Lorenzo
- Organisers of the Irish ¾ Marathon in Longwood
- Ms. Bonnie Greer for her comments in support of Ireland during the Brexit discussions

### **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 Planning**

5.1.1 Having considered the proposed Variation No.3 (to give effect to an objective in the



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

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the eastern and midland region in relation to providing further employment opportunities in Navan through the rezoning of a parcel of land) to the Navan Development Plan 2009-2015, together with the Chief Executive's report on submissions, if thought fit to resolve to make the variation, or to accept the Chief Executive's recommendations with or without further modification, or to refuse to make the variation, in accordance with Section 13 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2018.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga**.

5.1.2 Having considered 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, if thought fit to resolve to make the variation, or to accept the Chief Executive's recommendations with or without further modification, or to refuse to make the variation, in accordance with Section 13 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2018.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Aisling Dempsey** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.

5.1.3 To agree by Resolution to set a date for a Special Planning Meeting to receive the Chief Executive's Report on the Notices of Motion submitted by the Elected Members in relation to the draft County Development Plan (Special Planning Meeting: Thursday, November 7, 11am)

Mr. Kevin Stewart outlined the purpose of the proposed meeting. On a proposal from **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** it was agreed to hold a Special Planning Meeting on Tuesday, November 12, at 11am and to re-arrange the planned Ashbourne Municipal District meeting for earlier that day.

### **5.2 Corporate Services**

5.2.1 To adopt the revised Standing Orders for Meath County Council.

**Councillor Sharon Keogan** proposed an amendment which was agreed. The revised Standing Orders, as amended, were approved on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.

5.2.2 To appoint the three external members (Tom McGuinness, Geraldine Tallon, Kate Williams) to the Meath County Council Audit Committee in accordance with Section 122 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014.

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



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

5.2.3 To adopt a Protocol on Deputations at Municipal District Meetings.

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

5.2.4 To appoint the sectoral nominees as members of the Strategic Policy Committees and to approve the membership of the Strategic Policy Committees

**Councillors Maria Murphy** and **Sharon Keogan** sought clarification on the membership of the SPCs. The nominees were approved on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Aisling Dempsey**.

### **5.3 Community**

5.3.1 To receive a presentation on the Age Friendly Shared Service

Ms. Catherine McGuigan, Chief Officer of the National Age Friendly Shared Service gave a presentation on the structures and achievements of Age Friendly, with a focus on the actions undertaken in the housing field, guidance developed for hospital emergencies, the roll-out of facilities in libraries and pilot e-usage tools for older people, future advisory activities on train stations and on parking spaces, the results of the walkability surveys and the activities of the Older Peoples Councils.

There were contributions, follow-up questions and commendations from the following members: **Councillors: David Gilroy; Sarah Reilly; Alan Lawes; Darren O'Rourke; Susanne Jamal; Nick Killian; Yemi Adenuga; and Emer Tóibín.**

5.3.2 To receive a presentation on and to note the Meath Digital Strategy

Mr. Cormac McCann, Broadband Officer, gave a presentation on the Meath Digital Strategy, the context, the challenges and the approach the strategy adopts. He also outlined the four key pillars of the Strategy and the next steps in terms of implementation, including budgetary provision and engagement with key stakeholders.

There were contributions and follow-up questions from the following members: **Councillors: Aisling Dempsey; Sarah Reilly; Alan Tobin; Paul McCabe; Gerry O'Connor; Nick Killian; Gillian Toole; Paddy Meade; Darren O'Rourke; Eugene Cassidy; Maria Murphy; Sean Drew; Joe Bonner and Noel French.** Mr. McCann provided clarifications and responses, as appropriate.

### **5.4 Housing**



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

### 5.4.1 To Adopt the Draft Traveller Accommodation Plan 2019-2024.

Mr David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Department, made a presentation setting out the context for the Plan, an overview of the Traveller population in the county, their housing situation and articulated need. He also provided an overview of the draft Traveller Accommodation Plan, the consultation process undertaken and the key actions and indicators. There were a number of contributions from the following **Councillors: Yemi Adenuga; Edward Fennessy; David Gilroy; Darren O'Rourke;** and **Alan Lawes**. Mr. Jones provided responses, where required.

On a proposal from **Councillor Yemi Adenuga** and seconded by **Councillor Edward Fennessy**, the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2019-2024 was adopted by the Elected Members.

## **6 Reports**

### 6.1 Chief Executive's Report

Clarification was sought by **Councillors Gillian Toole; Sharon Keogan; Sharon Tolan; Gerry O'Connor; Nick Killian; Paddy Meade; Paul McCabe; Damien O'Reilly; Joe Bonner; Alan Tobin; Pdraig Fitzsimons** on a number of matters in the Report. The main issues focused on:

#### **Housing**

- Level of funding to Meath under national programmes;
- Alverno Court redevelopment;
- Approved Housing Body developments and other housing developments and sites;
- Increase in number of applicants on the Housing List;
- Number of Part V units to be delivered
- Housing Assessment meetings

#### **Planning**

- Development Contributions per MD
- Reduction in Development Contributions

#### **Transport**

- Provision of Bus Shelters
- Development of the Laytown-Bettystown Spine Road and Infirmary Road, Dunshaughlin
- Additional funding for CIF/LIF schemes

A number of other issues were highlighted: Irish Water; air quality monitoring; library facilities in Laytown, LEO clinics, charging points for electric vehicles and litter prosecutions.

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

### 6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

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 received an up-date on the processing of the Notices of Motion submitted on the draft County Development Plan and on the preparation of Budget 2020 and the outcome of the Rates Re-valuation process. The CPG also received notice of a Foras na Gaeilge plan to revive the Irish language in Meath, which would come before the Council in the months ahead.

### 6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator gave a summary of items discussed by the Protocol Committee, including an agreed approach for inviting the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána to a meeting of the Joint Policing Committee; an initial discussion on the webcasting of Council meetings; the approved conferences and training events for members, including training organised by the Council for elected members as board members and directors of companies under the aegis of Meath County Council. The Protocol Committee also noted a forthcoming information event on the roll-out of domestic smart meters in Meath by ESB Networks.

## 7 Correspondence

7.1 LG 07/2019 – Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government re. Adjustment to Elected Members' Representational Payment from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2019.

**Councillor Sharon Keogan** highlighted the paltry increase in elected members' payments. Noted by the Elected Members.

7.2 Circular 28/2019 – Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government re. Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans (RIHL) – Arrears Management and Notification of Updates to Reporting Requirements.

**Councillors Gerry O'Connor, Mike Bray and Nick Killian** sought clarifications on the current position within Meath County Council on the RIHL, which were addressed by Ms. Fiona Lawless. Noted by the Elected Members.

7.3 Correspondence from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and the National Transport Authority in response to Notice of Motion 9.12 adopted at the September 2019 meeting of the full Council re. bus fares.

**Councillor Damien Reilly** responded to the letters received and **Councillor Sharon Tolan** sought clarification on the role of local authorities. Noted by the Elected Members.

7.4 Correspondence from the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) regarding training on "The Planning Process, the Elected Member and the Office of the Planning Regulator"



## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Noted by the Elected Members.

### 8 Notice of Question

#### 8.1 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

*“Given the recent demand for increased population at Navan and Dunshaughlin to 'justify' the extension of the Dunboyne rail line to Navan, to ask the Council if they have revisited or intend to revisit, with Irish Rail and the Department, the case for their originally preferred route east of Dunshaughlin, or similar alternatives, on the basis that it would immediately increase the potential catchment for the line and strengthen the case for expediting the project?”*

**Response:**

The NTA's Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035 states that *‘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 Dunshaughlin and their environs, together with any additional or revised information on the future development potential of these areas then available.’*. The Council understands this review is due to start next year and intends to write to the NTA to request details of the scope of the proposed review, the methodology for assessing the rail demand and its proposals for consultation with the local authority as part of this process.

**Councillor Darren O'Rourke** clarified that the Council needs to influence the scope of the proposed review. Noted by the Elected Members.

#### 8.2 Submitted by Councillor Mike Bray

*“To provide the average turnaround time for refurbishment of local authority housing units before allocation to new tenants in each Municipal District.”*

**Response:**

The average refurbishment time of Meath County Council housing stock in 2018 was 21.9 weeks, with the following average refurbishment times recorded for each of the Municipal Districts:

- Ashbourne Municipal District – 19.4 weeks
- Kells Municipal District – 32.1 weeks
- Laytown-Bettystown Municipal District – 14.8 weeks
- Navan Municipal District – 22 weeks
- Ratoath Municipal District - 24.5 weeks
- Trim Municipal District – 18.4 weeks



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

Noted by the Elected Members.

### **8.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Lawes**

*“Can Meath County Council provide how many improvement and prohibition notices it has issued to Landlords in 2017, 2018 and so far in 2019?”*

**Response:**

One Improvement Notice has been issued to date in 2019, under Section 18a of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992, while during 2017 and 2018, no property inspected warranted an escalation to Improvement Notice stage.

The number of private rented properties inspected by Meath County Council will increase from 361 in 2017 and 414 in 2018, to in excess of 1,100 by the end of 2019.

Where non compliance with the minimum private rented standards is identified, improvement letters are issued, which outline the corrective actions required on behalf of the landlord. Thereafter, there is ongoing engagement to ensure properties reach compliance within a reasonable time period.

It is only in instances where there is serious non compliance, including the presence of fire safety concerns, that the matter of an Improvement Notice, and possible subsequent Prohibition Notice will be invoked.

Noted by the Elected Members.

## **9 Notice of Motion**

### **9.1 Submitted by Councillor Sean Drew**

*“In view of the level of expenditure, from both the capital and revenue budgets, expended by Meath County Council on its housing stock, this Council supports the deployment of additional resources specifically to visit and inspect the MCC owned housing stock and HAP/RAS funded properties”.*

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

In recognition of the Council’s commitments in relation to Rebuilding Ireland and the Housing programme, prioritisation has been placed on the staff resource requirements in the range of service areas under the remit of the Housing Department. In this regard additional engineering and technical staff have been assigned to assist with addressing inspection requirements in the Council’s housing stock and to address the inspection requirements associated with HAP/RAS properties. Additional staff resources have also been assigned to the estate management function in order to





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

ensure an appropriate presence of staff on the ground and to identify and address, amongst other matters, anti-social and illegal activities. Additional clerical/administrative staff have also been assigned to service these and other Housing functions.

The Council's human resource requirement continues to be driven by a workforce planning process which 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. The Council will continue to seek to ensure appropriate staffing of the Housing function by way of this workforce planning process. It must also be noted that national staffing approval requirements remain in place across the local government sector in terms of the creation of any new positions. The Council must adhere to these obligations as well as overall budgetary implications.

There was a debate on the motion with contributions from **Councillors Sean Drew; Gerry O'Connor** and **Joe Fox**, with a clarification by the Chief Executive. The supporting information was accepted and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Sean Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly**, was noted.

### **9.2 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke**

*"That Meath County Council will develop and publish a Traffic Calming Policy aimed at:*

- Incorporating traffic-calming measures, as appropriate, at planning and design stage of any new schemes*
- Introducing an appraisal system for traffic calming on existing roads and estates*
- Introducing a prioritisation and scheme design and selection system for traffic calming schemes on existing roads and estates*
- Introducing a Central Database and an annual works programme for Traffic Calming Schemes."*

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

At a Transportation SPC meeting in April 2017 a presentation was given in relation to traffic management awareness and the requirements of national documents such as DMURS. Following the introduction of the 30kph Speed Limit Bye-laws for Housing Estates in 2016/17, the Transportation Department has a list of housing estates ranked in terms of recorded speeds. This list will form the basis of prioritising future traffic calming measures. The Council's other traffic management priorities are set out in the Capital Plan. It was also noted at the time that an update of the Traffic Management Guidelines 2003 was being prepared on behalf of DTTAS. To date this has not been formally introduced but it is understood that a draft document has been prepared and is about to be submitted to DTTAS for consideration. In light of the above it is recommended that this Notice of Motion be referred to the Transportation SPC for review.



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

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** and seconded by **Councillor Johnny Guirke** and it was agreed that this motion be referred to the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

### **9.3 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole**

*"In the interest of fairness & transparency, the Meath County Council housing allocation list will be numbered. If necessary, separate lists will be numbered to include family unit types, health need, Disability and so on as appropriate."*

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

Meath County Council's current Allocation Scheme was adopted by full Council in December 2016, following the consideration by, and recommendation of, the Housing, Community & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee. The Allocation Scheme is based on length of time on the social housing waiting list, while provision is made for priority to be afforded to specified categories on a case by case basis, if deemed necessary.

It would be timely that the Allocation Scheme be reviewed during the current Council term, and that the consideration of a numbered system in respect to the Social Housing Waiting list take place as part of such a review by the incoming Housing, Community & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**, and it was agreed that this motion be referred to the Housing, Community and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

### **9.4 Submitted by Councillor Ronan Moore**

*"That Meath County Council reviews its procurement policies and procedure for works, goods and services; that do not exceed the thresholds as set down by the Public Contracts Directive (2014/24/EU). And that in doing so seeks to review our present weighting scheme for works, goods and services to enhance the procurement processes so that it brings greater benefits for our local economy and in social and environmental terms. And in carrying out this review, a report is brought back to members outlining specific opportunities where the procurement policies and/or procedures can or have been changed to achieve this."*

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

Meath County Council carried out a full review of its procurement policy and procedures in November 2018, to take account the repealing of Directive 2004/18/EU and the transposition of



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

Directive 2014/24/EU (Public Sector Directive) into Irish law as prescribed in Statutory Instrument SI.284.

Under section 4.2 of Meath County Council's Corporate Procurement Plan the high level Goals and Objectives in relation to Social Consideration are:

### ***Sustainable Public Procurement***

*Encourage the use of award criteria in tenders that promote sustainable procurement through the inclusion of environmental, economic and social criteria in the procurement of goods, services and works.*

### ***Environmental / Green Procurement***

*Promote methods of production that are more environmentally friendly and stimulate greater supply of "green" goods and services through the use of environmental criteria in procurement procedures.*

*This goal will be implemented through the following objectives:*

- *Use of "ultimate cost" and not price in award criteria to promote "life-cycle" thinking in procurement*
- *Ensure procurement is in compliance with all relevant environmental legislation*

### ***Economic***

*Support increased participation by SMEs in public procurement*

*This goal will be implemented through the following objectives:*

- *Where appropriate and practical and without compromising efficiency and value for money, the Council will consider dividing contracts into Lots*
- *Facilitate more SMEs in competing for procurement opportunities by ensuring the pre-qualification criteria (e.g., turnover, insurance, experience) for procurement contracts are proportionate to the contract in question*
- *At the time of tendering, allow tenderers to self-declare that they have the relevant and proportionate capacity necessary to undertake the contract*
- *Provide public procurement training for suppliers*
- *Participate in "meet the buyer" events where appropriate*

### ***Social***

*To include social considerations in public procurement, where possible, in order to support social policies in relation to employment opportunities, compliance with social and labour rights, social inclusion, equal opportunities and accessibility.*

*This goal will be implemented through the following objectives:*



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

- *The use of award criteria that support social policies*

These high level goals are actionable under section 3.11 of Meath County Council's Procurement Procedures:

*Award criteria are required to be clearly indicated in the request for tender documents. The award criteria examine the capability of the tenderer to meet the requirements set out in the tender specifications. They should also be set relative to the risk and nature of the contract being awarded.*

*There are two options for award criteria:*

- *Lowest Price*
- *Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT)*

*With regard to the use of Lowest Price award criteria, only the price submitted is evaluated. No other award criteria can be evaluated.*

*With regard to the use of most economically advantageous tender (MEAT) award criteria are based on a combination of financial cost and quality. Each award criteria must specify the relative weighting to be used for evaluation.*

*Examples of award criteria applicable to MEAT:*

- *Ultimate cost (acquisition, operational and disposal costs)*
- *Period of completion / programme for works*
- *Reliability and continuity of supply*
- *Quality, quantity and balance of resources offered*
- *Technical merit*
- *Environmental characteristics*
- *Functional characteristics*
- *Project plan / project methodology*
- *After sales service*
- *Technical assistance*
- *Sustainability*

When conducting procurement activities Meath County Council's staff are obliged to follow clearly prescribed and defined procedures in accordance with all EU and National legislative requirements and regulations. Meath County Council's Procurement Officer has previously participated and facilitated a very successful "meet the buyer event" in conjunction with InterTrade Ireland, Meath County Council's Local Enterprise Office and Economic Development Office.

Where permissible, local contractors and suppliers are engaged by Meath County Council, when seeking tenders for goods, services and works contracts. The Council's goal is to actively encourage the use of sustainable and social consideration clauses in tender award criteria, as outlined in the



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

procurement procedures. The Council is continually looking at avenues and mechanisms to increase and incorporate social considerations when carrying out Council business and spending public funds.

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

### **9.5 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy**

*“That Meath County Council, in a gesture of solidarity with communities along the border, support the call of the Border Communities Against Brexit (BCAB) campaign group to hold a National evening of solidarity on October 16th by lighting up a key public building in each of the six Municipal Districts in County Meath in Yellow, the colours of BCAB.”*

### **9.6 Submitted by Councillor Alan Lawes**

*“That Meath County Council lights up all council buildings yellow in solidarity with the Border Communities Against Brexit.”*

Items 9.5 and 9.6 were considered together, as the motions were similar. The motion was proposed by **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Lawes**. There was a debate on the motion with contributions from **Councillors Edward Fennessy, Alan Lawes, Gerry O’Connor; Maria Murphy and Darren O’Rourke**. The Chief Executive proposed that a protocol would be established for future such uses of Council properties, which would come before the Protocol Committee. She did indicate that Buvinda House could be used on this occasion and this was agreed by the Elected Members.

### **9.7 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín**

*“Given that retail leakage outside the county, internet shopping and the high costs of utilities, insurance and overheads are making it difficult for retail to survive in Meath, that Meath County Council research the feasibility of a Meath Retail Loyalty Card to strengthen the retail sector in Meath. If the project is feasible and has the buy in of the retail sector that Meath County Council develop and facilitate the operation of the Meath Retail Loyalty Card.”*

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

The County Meath Chamber of Commerce is at an advanced stage of the development of a County Meath Retail Card and the Economic Development section of the Council has met with them and expressed support for the project. The Chamber has, to date, carried out extensive research into various existing loyalty card schemes including commercially available loyalty cards and is also



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

working with a locally based financial services company on associated regulatory issues. The buy-in and support of retailers is vital to the success of any initiative as is the business model that would be used including the cost of the card and rates of commission etc. A key issue for the Chamber and the Council is that any card could only be used in approved Meath based retail outlets. The Council is supportive of this initiative and will continue to work with and support the Chamber on the project.

The supporting information and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Eimear Tóibín** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan**, was noted.

### **9.8 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín**

*“The Meath County Council invites Bus Éireann and the NTA to meet with interested Councillors to discuss the transport crisis in Meath affecting commuters and people living in the towns and villages around the county.”*

Councillor Alan Lawes supported the motion, which was proposed by **Councillor Eimear Tóibín** and seconded by **Councillor Darren O'Rourke** and agreed.

### **9.9 Submitted by Councillor Johnny Guirke (deferred from September meeting)**

*“In regard to the proposed EU law that would ban the use of lead in shooting and fishing, making over 100,000 shotguns in Ireland obsolete, we call on the government to initiate a robust consultation process with all affected parties including game clubs, farming bodies and conservation organisations before proceeding to support any EU proposals in this regard or enacting any legislation at domestic level.”*

There was a short debate on this motion with contributions from **Councillors Johnny Guirke; Eugene Cassidy** and **Darren O'Rourke**. The motion, proposed by **Councillor Johnny Guirke** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**, was agreed.

### **9.10 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly**

*“That Meath County Council recognises and appreciates the service its local knackeries provide, particularly in terms of environmental and health protection, and it calls on the Minister for Agriculture to meaningfully engage with service providers to ensure their future viability.”*

There was a short debate on this motion with contributions from **Councillors Sarah Reilly; Joe Fox; Eugene Cassidy; Sharon Keogan** and **Johnny Guirke**. The motion, proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**, was agreed.

### **9.11 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly**



## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

*“That Meath County Council is appalled by the current lack of funding for Home Help in Meath and it calls on the Minister for Health to act immediately to rectify the matter.”*

The motion was withdrawn by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**.

### **9.12 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O’Connor**

*“That Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to fund the Local Property Tax equalization fund (20%) from central government and allow Local Authorities access to 100% LPT funding raised locally.”*

Councillor Darren O’Rourke spoke in favour of the motion, which was proposed by **Councillor Gerry O’Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and agreed.

### **9.13 Submitted by Councillor Ronan Moore**

*“That Meath County Council writes to the Minister of Housing, Planning & Local Government to release without delay the report of the Baseline Review Group, a group established in May 2018 by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to review the Local Property Tax baseline funding of local authorities, and which this council fed into, and which has been completed since early this year”.*

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

### **9.14 Submitted by Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**

*“That Meath County Council writes to the Minister of the Environment, to demand that he increase the proposed number of electric car charging points throughout the county and throughout the country. At present, the Minister proposes that there will be an additional 1,000 new electric car charging points throughout the country over the next five years which equates to less than 10 per county each year.”*

There were interventions from Councillors Pdraig Fitzsimons; David Gilroy; Gerry O’Connor; Sharon Tolan and Sharon Keogan. The motion, proposed by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Sean Drew**, was agreed.

## **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



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

10.3 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Housing

10.4 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Community

Noted by the Elected Members

### **11 Presentations by other Bodies/Statutory Agencies**

None

### **12 Any Other Business**

None

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_

Cllr. Wayne Harding  
Cathaoirleach