



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

2nd December 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, Eddie Fennessy, Brian Fitzgerald, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Joe Fox, Noel French, David Gilroy, Trevor Golden, Johnny Guirke, Wayne Harding, Annie Hoey, 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: Seán Drew, Deirdre Geraghty-Smith, Suzanne Jamal,

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, David Jones, Fiona Fallon, Ger Murphy

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 4th November, 2019

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 4th November 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Paul McCabe**.

Councillor Alan Tobin sought clarification that his motion adopted at the November Meeting would also be brought to the attention of the Garda Síochána.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Preliminary Budget meeting held on 25th November, 2019.

The minutes of the Preliminary Budget meeting held on 25th November 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.



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1.3 Confirmation of minutes of Statutory Budget meeting held on 25th November, 2019.

The minutes of the Statutory Budget meeting held on 25th November 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Behan**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Brian Smyth, General Services Supervisor, Navan Municipal District, on the death of his mother, Frances Smyth.
- Jonathan Ryan, Transportation, on the death of his mother, Mary (Marie) Ryan.
- Denise Maguire Hughes, Library Headquarters, on the death of her father, Michael (Max) Maguire.
- Cllr. Emer Tóibín on the death of her father, Desmond John (Jack) Tobin.
- Esther Mulvihill, Corporate Services, on the death of her aunt, Dora Conway.
- Nicolas Whyatt, Transportation, on the death of his mother.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Staff in the Community Department for their work on the Pride of Place Awards and to the Meath nominees in the national finals and to Girley Bog Meitheal as winners.
- Meath Nominees at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards - Ashbourne Library Music Appreciation Club, Kells Swimming Pool Accessibility Improvements; and the Age-Friendly Acorn Project.
- Successful by-election candidates elected to Dail Eireann.
- Johnstown-Walterstown Committee for the local Christmas Fare.
- Ratoath U21 Football Team.
- Fionn Foley – cast member in a Winter's Tale, Gate Theatre.
- Walterstown U13 County Football Champions.
- Clann Na nGael, U21 County Champions.
- Keane Barry, competing in the World Darts Championships in London.

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



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5 Presentation from the National Transportation Authority by Ms. Anne Graham CEO and Mr. Hugh Creegan, Deputy CEO

Ms. Anne Graham, Chief Executive Officer, National Transportation Authority (NTA), accompanied by Mr. Hugh Creegan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, made a presentation to the meeting outlining: the role and range of functions of the NTA; the Greater Dublin Area Transportation Strategy; the spatial planning framework; the future of the Navan rail line; future public transport provision; park and ride facilities; low emissions vehicles; walking and cycling infrastructure - investments in Meath; the DART Extension; accessibility of public transport; the bus fleet and bus stops; rural services; and future transportation challenges.

There was an extensive debate with the following members making contributions: **Councillors: Tommy Reilly; Alan Tobin; Mike Bray; Noel French; Nick Killian; Gillian Toole; Sharon Tolan; Gerry O'Connor; Tom Behan; Darren O'Rourke; Maria Murphy; Joe Fox; Paul McCabe; Alan Lawes; Joe Bonner; Ronan Moore; Johnny Guirke; Damien O'Reilly; Yemi Adenuga; Sarah Reilly; Conor Tormey; and Emer Tóibín.** Comments and questions focused on the proposed review of the rail line to Navan; the operation of bus services and certain routes in the county, including reliability and connectivity issues; the public transport fare structures; the need to revise the map of the Greater Dublin Area for transportation planning purposes; the need to have a joined-up approach to all public transport modes, including a joint marketing plan; the capacity and suitability of the bus fleet; the location and provision of bus stops; park and ride facilities in the county; and the provision of cycling infrastructure and facilities. The NTA representatives provided responses and clarifications and noted some of the issues raised for future response.

6 Statutory Business

6.1 Corporate Services

6.1.1 To adopt the Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2024.

The Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2024 was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Paul McCabe**.

6.1.2 To adopt a Protocol on the Lighting of Council Facilities.

The Protocol was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Aisling Dempsey**.

6.1.3 To adopt the Municipal District Allocation Scheme Protocol – 2020.



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The Protocol was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly**.

6.2 Finance

- 6.2.1 To receive a year to date Financial Statement for Meath County Council as at 30th September 2019.

The Statement was presented by Ms. Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance and was noted.

6.3 Community

- 6.3.1 To approve a replacement member of the Meath LCDC & LAG, Donna Farrell representing the Meath County Chambers.

The nominee was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Edward Fennessy**.

- 6.3.2 To approve a replacement member of the Meath LCDC & LAG, Anna Melnick of the Russian Culture and Educational Centre "Marusya" representing the Social Inclusion Pillar of the Public Participation Network (PPN).

The nominee was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Edward Fennessy**.

7 Reports

- 7.1 Chief Executive's Report

Clarification was sought by **Councillors Nick Killian; Sharon Keogan; Gillian Toole** and **Paul McCabe** on a number of matters in the Report. The main issues focused on:

Housing – Delivery in 2019; availability of land for future own-build housing; reasons for emergency accommodation provision; update on housing development in Athboy;

Planning – public display of draft County Development Plan;

Community – Roll out of Walkability Audits in Ratoath and Dunshaughlin;

Environment – Illegal Dumping; Quarrying; Dog Breeding.

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



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7.2 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 received a report from the Housing SPC, which had considered a motion referred to it by the Council in September 2019. The SPC recommended an amended motion which the CPG agreed be put to the Council for approval as follows:

"That the council writes to the Minister for Justice and Equality Charlie Flanagan T.D. and the Minister of State for Justice at the Department of Justice and Equality with special responsibility for Equality, Immigration and Integration David Staunton T.D., calling for the full implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group to Report to Government on the Protection Process on Improvements to the Protection Process, including Direct Provision and Supports to Asylum Seekers i.e. the McMahon Report 2015."

This was approved by the Elected Members.

7.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator gave a summary of items discussed by the Protocol Committee, including: agreement on presentations by SIPTU and National Broadband Ireland, in advance of scheduled Council meetings in 2020. The Committee also agreed in principle to hold a civic event for retired Bishop Michael Smith and approved the list of attendance at conferences and training events under Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act 2001.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Correspondence from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in response to Notice of Motion 9.12 adopted at the October 2019 meeting of the full Council re. local retention of Local Property Tax (LPT).

Noted by the Elected Members.

- 8.2 Correspondence from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in response to Notice of Motion 9.13 adopted at the October 2019 meeting of the full Council re. release of the report of the Baseline Review Group.

Noted by the Elected Members.

Councillor Mike Bray noted that a substantive response to the motion on adequate respite provision for children and adults with intellectual disabilities (September 2019) had not yet been received and



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was concerned that this was an urgent issue requiring a response and action. **Councillor Gillian Toole** informed the meeting that she had also raised the issue at the Regional Health Forum.

9 Notice of Question

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Deirdre Geraghty-Smith

“To ask the Chief Executive to confirm whether Meath County Council is implementing the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and the National Biodiversity Action Plan; and to provide a description of the specific current and planned actions, to implement these plans across the County; recognising the significant role of pollinators in promoting biodiversity and protecting the local eco-system.”

Response:

Meath County Council has not as yet signed up as a partner of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 however arrangements are being made to do so as the Council recognises 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.

Pending this however it is pointed out that the Council is involved in various actions associated with pollination and Biodiversity Action Plans including:

- Pollinator training for staff of Meath County Council was provided in April 2018 by Biodiversity 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



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- 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.
- The CEAF (formerly Local Agenda 21) Fund for 2019 specifically targets projects which promote Biodiversity and Climate Action.
- A community biodiversity workshop on pollinators and citizen science was held in Buvinda House on November 23rd 2019.

Mr. Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, informed the meeting that the Council had recently signed the Pollinator Plan. Noted by the Elected Members.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

“Can Meath County Council provide the amount of processed successful Mortgage to Rent applications in tabular format per Municipal District in the last 2 years in Meath?”

Response:

The table below sets out the number of completed Mortgage to Rent applications:

Municipal District	2018	2019
Ashbourne	1	1
Laytown Bettystown	2	3
Kells	3	2
Navan	5	4
Ratoath	2	0
Trim	2	0
TOTAL	15	10

Noted by the Elected Members.

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

“What are the Housing Rent collection percentages for Meath County Council for 2017 and 2018?”



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Response:

The rental income collection percentage in Meath for 2017 and 2018 is 89%, which is above the national average of 86%. Arrears have reduced year on year from €1.6m in 2014 to €1.2m in 2018, a reduction of €0.4m. During 2019, the Rents Section of the Council continued to place a greater emphasis on problem cases and early intervention. A considerable body of work continues to be carried out through the Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP) with regards to shared ownership rent arrears, and it is anticipated that this work will continue to bring further improvements in collection yields.

Noted by the Elected Members.

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

“To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on the financial cost to the Council to remove illegal dumping for each year since 2014; and if she will make a statement on the matter?”

Response:

Illegal dumping is a problem for many areas across the country including parts of County Meath, varying in volume from a single black bag of domestic rubbish to truck loads of rubbish. The depositing of large amounts of rubbish is often associated with isolated rural areas and in some of the most scenic and frequented areas. Locations that are prone to illegal dumping are affected both on a visual and environmental level.

As shown in the following table the costs associated with the removal of illegally dumped waste and litter control by Meath County Council is very significant:

Heading	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Provision of Waste to Collection Services	128,329	156,880	159,414	138,769	142,766
Litter Management	388,547	436,342	426,434	494,048	519,954
Street Cleaning	1,417,666	1,691,086	1,434,200	1,703,164	1,672,467
Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement	1,505,215	1,720,663	1,788,425	1,769,521	1,813,124
	3,439,757	4,004,971	3,808,473	4,105,502	4,148,311

The disposal of rubbish in any area of land without approval, permission, or which does not have a waste license is illegal and a criminal offence, punishable by fines from €150 up to €10 million upon conviction and 10 years imprisonment, or both. Where Meath County Council finds material that is illegally dumped and establishes the identity of those responsible, such persons will be subject to enforcement proceedings and with the main objective of having the illegally dumped material removed to an authorised facility and the environmental risk eliminated.



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One of the major problems in relation to illegal dumping/fly-tipping is householders and businesses handing over their waste to unauthorised door-to-door waste collectors. In this regard, Meath County Council initiated a major campaign last year to encourage households not to give their waste to these 'man in the van' type operators – this campaign has proved to be quite successful in that the number of such operators advertising on social media has significantly reduced.

There are many other initiatives being undertaken at local and national level in an effort to address the problem that is illegal dumping. These include:

- Co-ordination of national waste enforcement priorities between the local authorities, the Waste Enforcement Office etc in tackling (1) significant illegal waste activity, (2) the unauthorised disposal of construction and demolition waste, (3) end of life vehicles, (4) compliance with waste collection permits and (5) multi-agency responses to sites operating without authorisation.
- Participation in an anti-dumping initiative was introduced by the Government where local authorities and community organisations identify problem areas, develop enforcement responses and carry out clean-up operations.
- The adoption of Household Waste Presentation Bye Laws which are primarily intended to give additional powers to Local Authorities to target persistent offenders who do not have appropriate arrangements in place for waste disposal
- An increase in the use of Technology such as CCTV, Drones and wildlife cameras in detecting and preventing illegal dumping
- An ongoing Education and Awareness programme which includes extensive social media postings, billboards, local newspaper press releases, etc.
- The holding of free bulky waste days across different waste streams which otherwise might end up being illegally dumped for collection by the Council.
- Utilising preventative measures – installation of signage and fencing.

Notwithstanding the challenges highlighted above in tackling a problem that has existed for generations and affecting every local authority area, it is considered that the mixture of enforcement, education and awareness and collaboration with community and voluntary groups is proving effective in the fight against illegal dumping, while acknowledging such efforts alone may not deter the small minority who choose to continue to illegally dump.

Noted by the Elected Members.

9.5 Submitted by Councillor Ronan Moore



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"Could Meath County Council confirm the number of properties in Meath that are currently available to rent under Airbnb; how many of these properties are being rented for less than 90 days and have registered for exemption with us, their local authority; how many of these are properties that are being rented more than 90 days and have applied for planning permission for a change of use; and if there are currently any properties in Meath that are year-long short-term lets and therefore prohibited in Meath due to our Rent-Pressure Zone status?"

Response:

Meath County Council does not have a record of the number of properties available to rent in Meath on Airbnb or any similar websites. Since the introduction of the Short Term Letting legislation, 12 properties in total have registered with the Council. 7 notifications referred to home-sharing and the remaining 5 referred to short-term letting. Meath County Council currently has no enforcement cases in relation to the practice of unauthorised short-term letting.

Noted by the Elected Members.

10 Notice of Motion

10.1 Submitted by Councillor Mike Bray

"That Meath County Council supports the introduction of reverse vending recycling machines in towns and villages across the county such was launched in Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan recently; and engages with local communities and Tidy Towns groups to optimise the introduction of these machines."

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

The reverse vending machine, which allows people to recycle plastic bottles in return for vouchers, was recently launched in Carrickmacross and being the first location in Ireland where such a machine has been introduced.

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment while noting, the details of this particular initiative in testing the viability of a deposit return scheme in a very localised basis, point out that they have commissioned a review to establish the best way to reach a 90% collection target for beverage bottles, including examination of a deposit and return scheme and will consider the outcome of this review and any necessary actions from it, once completed.

The Council will monitor the outcomes of the Carrickmacross initiative which is a litter prevention model for plastic bottle litter, and while we are willing to work with Tidy Towns or other such groups in any initiatives to prevent littering and promote recycling, we will await the outcome of the Departmental review which it is understood will take into account current Repak Initiatives, the



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kerbside collections and operations as well as, the wide network of Civic Amenity Sites and Bring Banks throughout the Country.

There were interventions from **Councillors Ronan Moore; Joe Bonner; Paul McCabe;** and **Alan Tobin** and clarifications from Mr. Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer. The supporting information and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Mike Bray** and seconded by **Councillor Paul McCabe** was agreed.

10.2 Submitted by the Fianna Fáil Group

“That Meath County Council takes the lead in harnessing the potential of our county’s hedgerows by encouraging and supporting the planting of native Irish trees, as these are the best placed to thrive and survive in Irish conditions and help offset some of the greenhouse gas emissions that are produced through our day to day activities. Further, that Meath County Council should make a concerted effort to only plant native Irish trees and plants.”

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

Hedgerows, along with the trees within them, are a characteristic feature of the landscape of Meath. The *County Meath Tree, Woodland and Hedgerow Survey (2011)* estimated that there are over 22,000 kms of hedgerow in the county; which equates to an average of 9.5km of hedgerow per square kilometre of land. Hedgerows provide food and shelter to a wealth of wildlife including small mammals, numerous birds and invertebrates. As linear features, hedges provide corridors for wildlife to move across the landscape. Trees produce oxygen, clean the soil and air, control noise pollution, act as carbon sinks thus reducing greenhouse gases, regulate temperature, help to control erosion and flooding and are important for their amenity and aesthetic value. Meath hedgerows are old – over 80% are shown as field boundaries on maps from the 1840s, and many are likely to be much older than that. At least 36 species of trees and shrubs can be found in County Meath hedgerows.

The protection and conservation of plants, animals and wildlife habitats is enshrined in European and national legislation, this extends to trees and hedgerows. It is also government policy as set out in the third National Biodiversity Plan 2017-2021 and is an objective of the County Meath Biodiversity Plan 2015-2020. Natura 2000 sites (i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)) form part of a network of ecologically important sites to protect and conserve species of importance in a European Union context.

Meath County Council recognises the values of our native tree, hedgerow and woodland resource:

- The County Meath Development Plan 2013-2019 contains a number of policies and objectives to support the sustainable management of Meath’s hedgerow resource and to support the



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retention of existing trees and hedgerows, and planting of native hedgerows (where required) through the Development Management Process

- Through the implementation of the County Heritage Plan and County Biodiversity Plan, the Council has organised a number of community biodiversity workshops and provides resource material to the public to encourage the planting of native trees
- Meath County Council participates each year in National Tree Week and encourages Tidy Towns, community groups and individuals to plant native trees and distributes large numbers of trees
- Training courses on biodiversity have been delivered to Local Authority staff and further workshops are planned for December 2019 and early 2020
- Meath County Council through its partnership in the implementation of the *All Ireland Pollinator Plan* will take a number of positive actions to enhance the local landscape for pollinators
- As part of the Council's commitment to climate action, next year the council will look to identify small land parcels of Council owned property which would be suitable for planting native trees and creating biodiversity areas. We will also explore options for partnerships in this area where we might benefit from funding.

There were interventions from **Councillors Alan Tobin; Gillian Toole; Paul McCabe and Mike Bray**. The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Behan**, was agreed.

10.3 Submitted by Councillor Johnny Guirke

"Meath County Council recognises the huge contribution low paid workers make to the Irish economy and calls for the implementation of a Living Wage to end in-work poverty and reduce the financial pressure on many households and also calls on this Council to become a Living Wage employer, by ensuring every worker employed by the Council earns at least the Living Wage of €12.30 per hour."

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

Local authority staff pay-scales are set by Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government circular. The HR Department can confirm however that Meath County Council posts currently have pay-scales where earnings are no less than €12.30 per hour.



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The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Johnny Guirke** and seconded by **Councillor Edward Fennessy**, were noted.

10.4 Submitted by Councillor Ronan Moore

"That Meath County Council undertakes a gender pay review and implement any recommendations from such a review, in as timely a manner as is possible."

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

The 'Gender Pay Gap' is the aggregate difference between what women are paid compared to men. In March 2019 the government announced cabinet approval for a number of measures to promote greater gender equality including the 'Gender Pay Gap Information Bill' which, when enacted, will require companies or organisations to publish information in relation to the difference between the mean and median hourly pay of male and female employees. The Local Authority Sector, including Meath County Council, will comply with the relevant requirements as in year one the regulations will apply to organisations of 250 or more employees. The sector, including Meath County Council, awaits clarification as to the requirements of the forthcoming regulations.

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

10.5 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

"That Meath County Council does all in its power to ensure that the Doctor on Call service remains located in Navan."

This motion was withdrawn.

10.6 Submitted by Councillor Ronan Moore

"That the council writes to the Minister for Justice and Equality Charlie Flanagan T.D. and the Minister of State for Justice at the Department of Justice and Equality with special responsibility for Equality, Immigration and Integration David Staunton T.D., calling for the full implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group to Report to Government on the Protection Process on Improvements to the Protection Process, including Direct Provision and Supports to Asylum Seekers i.e. the McMahon Report 2015."

This motion was dealt with under Item 7.2.

10.7 Submitted by Councillor Eddie Fennessy



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“Meath County Council calls on the Government to deliver on a 2008 Labour Court ruling to provide pension entitlement to supervisors on Community Employment schemes. And recognises that Government's inaction on that historical 2008 decision undermines the Labour Court and causes hardship to supervisors and their families.”

Councillor Noel French informed the Cathaoirleach of a personal interest in this motion and absented himself from the discussion and vote. There were interventions from the following **Councillors Gillian Toole; Mike Bray; Damien O'Reilly; Nick Killian; Joe Bonner; Brian Fitzgerald; Alan Lawes;** and **Gerry O'Connor**. The motion proposed by **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**, was agreed.

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

- 11.1 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders - Transportation
- 11.2 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Environment
- 11.3 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Housing
- 11.4 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Community

Noted by the Elected Members

12 Any Other Business

The following items were raised: **Councillor Nick Killian** on the proposed changes in payment to Councillors; **Councillor David Gilroy** on the work of the Climate Action Forum and the event on February 22, 2020, which required volunteers from among the Elected Members to mentor school student participants; **Councillor Gillian Toole** on public health cuts and the Community Pharmacy Contract; and **Councillors Damien O'Reilly; Gerry O'Connor; Brian Fitzgerald** and **Johnny Guirke** wishing season's greetings to all members and staff.