



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 19th February 2020, Navan Civic Offices

An Meára, **Councillor Tommy Reilly**, presided.

Councillors Present: Yemi Adenuga, Francis Deane, Edward Fennessy, Padraig Fitzsimons, Alan Lawes and Emer Tóibín.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Kevin Stewart

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Paul O'Brien

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 22nd January 2020.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 22nd January 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- David Jones, Housing Department, on the death of his father, Gerry;
- Paul McNulty, Transportation Department, on the death of his father, Christy;



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- John Lynch, SGSS, on the death of his father, John;
- The family of the late Joe Power, Limekiln Wood, Navan:
- Kevin Fitzsimons, Sunnybank, Wilkinstown, on the death of his wife, Margaret Ita;
- The family of the late Keelin Shanley, RTE.

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

4.1 Agreement in principle to disposal of a freehold at Flowerhill, Navan, Co Meath.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

5.1.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Navan Municipal District.

The report had been circulated in advance and the key points were outlined.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The possibility of reviewing the boundary around the football pitch on Boreen Keel to prevent footballs going into Dean Cogan Place.
- The possibility of cleaning the footpath from Newgate to the railway tracks and also from Windtown to the railway to facilitate safe access by pedestrians.
- The need for additional funding for the tree maintenance programme.

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- The possibility of painting the concrete bollards at Clusker Park, Parnell Park and Blackcastle.
- The possibility of replacing the bins removed at the Ramparts during the slipway works.
- The possibility of meeting on site to discuss the bollards at St. Oliver's Cottages.
- Requested a status update on the taking in charge of Boyne View estate.

5.1.2 To receive an update on Navan 2030 Scheme.

Cormac Ross, Resident Engineer, Transportation referred to the update circulated by email, which provided information on works being undertaken on Railway Street, upcoming road closures, and the plans to open Railway Street to two-way traffic in mid-March, weather permitting. Further information updates will be circulated by email and advance notification of two-way traffic on Railway Street will be made available via website, radio, social and print media.

Tenders are being assessed for Contract 2 works, to include the Bridge Street/Circular Road/Academy Street junction, with a view to appointing a contractor for works to commence in April.

Reference was made to Contracts 3 and 4, with works on laneways to form part of a separate package.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried the impact on parking spaces on Bridge Street – during the works phase, parking will be impacted on one side of the street, with access to loading bays, car parks, etc. to be maintained. The council will liaise with those affected.
- Queried the traffic direction for vehicles coming from the Dublin Road – there will be no left turn at the fire station.



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- Queried the plans for the roundabout at the Garda station, the car park opposite the credit union, Academy Street, etc. – the plans were outlined, with reference to the drawings.
- The need to improve public lighting in Cornmarket – Public lighting and CCTV will be installed at a later stage, with bollards to be erected at the archway to facilitate pedestrianisation.
- Queried the plans to widen the footpath at Boreen Keel and make it a one-way street – this does not form part of the current scheme.
- Queried the communication strategy with businesses impacted by the works – contact details for businesses on Railway Street and Bridge Street have been gathered, with advance information on arrangements and potential impacts shared, when confirmed. Regular updates on progress are also circulated. Businesses can also contact Transportation directly or the on-site contractor supervisor, if issues arise.
- Queried the traffic management plans in Johnstown in light of additional school provision – a traffic management plan will form part of any planning permission granted for school expansion.
- Queried the possibility of allowing traffic exiting the shopping centre during the summer to turn left at lights at fire station – the temporary traffic management arrangements will be monitored and adjusted, if required. Allowing the temporary reinstatement of this left turn may cause confusion and would impact on the pedestrian crossing.

Reference was also made to the planned improvements to the town bus service, which will include two new bus routes, new bus stops and improved links to regional services. Work is ongoing on the detailed design.

Matters raised by councillors included the need for services to Mullaghboy Industrial Estate and villages outside Navan, including Robinstown, Dunderry, etc. It was pointed out that the routes are selected by Bus Éireann and the NTA and there may be scope to extend the routes at a later date.

5.2 Water Services



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- 5.2.1 To receive an update on the replacement of the main trunk watermain supplying Navan.

Paul Kelly, Senior Executive Engineer, and Peter Brady, Executive Engineer, Water Services delivered a presentation which included the background to the project, overall layout, progress update and planned works, proposed road closures and diversions, timelines and works management.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the proposed works whilst acknowledging that some inconvenience might result.
- Queried whether the houses along the Proudstown Road at Clonmagadden would be able to connect to the mains sewerage after these works are completed – this issue had been looked at previously and was a complex issue, with the cost in excess of the available grant funding.
- Queried whether it would be possible to pipe the ditch at Donaghmore Lane to facilitate to improve safety for pedestrians – it was agreed to look at clearing the ditch, pointing out that the cost of piping the ditch would be excessive, particularly in the context of the number of ditches in the municipal district. Permanent reinstatement works will be carried out on Donaghmore Lane in April/May.

5.3 Corporate Services

- 5.3.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Navan Municipal District.

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, were noted.

5.4 To consider and adopt the 2020 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Section outlined the schedule of works as they relate to housing, including the service categories, funding allocations per municipal district, the centralised budgets and updates on the previous year.



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Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried the planned maintenance expenditure on halting sites - routine maintenance, including bays, waste removal, etc. will be carried out.
- Requested an update on progress on the redevelopment of St. Francis' Park, the issues relating to the number of caravans on the site and complaints received regarding lack of regular maintenance – agreement has been reached with the residents on the redesign of St. Francis' Park, with the proposal now the subject of negotiation with department officials. Council officials are aware of and trying to address the issue of overcrowding. Maintenance requests are logged and dealt with.
- Requested that a fire safety risk assessment be carried out in St. Patrick's Park – it was agreed to request this.
- Queried the responsibility for dealing with vermin in and around local authority houses – as per the policy adopted by the SPC, the council will address issues relating to openings in walls, enabling access. Otherwise, where a problem exists outside of the physical property, this is an issue for tenants to deal with.
- Requested that a fire safety risk assessment be carried out on local authority housing in Windtown – the issue has been identified and fire stopping works completed in a number of units with further spot checks to be carried out and any remaining issues to be dealt with.

Des Foley, Director of Service, Transportation outlined the key proposed works, pointing out that the information presented today refers to the revenue programme, with the capital programme, being separate, dealing with works such as footpaths, public lighting, etc. The increase in funding does have implications on the available resources, with the programme of works being implemented late into the year. It was noted that tender prices have also increased.

John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Transportation Section outlined the proposed works under each heading and responded to queries on specific proposed projects. A contingency fund has been included to deal with any tender price increases but this can be reviewed mid-year and the programme increased, if appropriate.



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Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried the works planned for Dunmoe and when Phase II will commence – a hedge removal contractor will be on site in October. The Phase II construction works are due to commence in Q4 2020.
- Queried the timeframe for the delivery of the link road from the Trim Road to the motorway – this scheme will require a detailed design and CPO, with funding to be secured. It will be subject to a funding application under the URDF, along with the Kells to Windtown Road. In the meantime, it is intended to address the Borallion junction. All funding opportunities are being considered for the delivery of the Kells to Windtown Road, with the intention of submitting a planning application to An Bord Pleanála in 2020.
- Queried how the funding, administered centrally, is expended – the bridge programme is based on a rating system, with intervention undertaken to prevent collapse. There are no relevant bridge works planned for Navan Municipal District in 2020. The public lighting expenditure includes the maintenance and services contract, energy bill and inspections across the county.
- Underlined the need for additional central funding to meet the needs of an increasing population – it was pointed out that funding under each heading – own resources, Department of Transport, TII and NTA – had increased overall, leading to pressure on resources to deliver the proposed programmes.
- The need to start planning for the delivery of key road links in Navan – the County Development Plan allows for the consideration of long-term objectives. Reference was made to the lengthy lead in time for such projects.
- The possibility of considering the use of recycled plastics in road projects – local authorities are bound by national standards in road resurfacing and, whilst trials had been undertaken in the past with regard to the use of recycled materials, it is up to national bodies to set the standards. Road material can be reused in certain circumstances, thereby reducing the amount of raw materials needed.

The Schedule of Municipal District Works was unanimously adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Edward Fennessy**.



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6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“Have Meath County Council any plans to supply primary schools in the Navan area with recycling bins for single use plastic bottles?”

Response:

Every school in Meath has a minimum of a 2 bin collection system, which includes a recycling bin for plastic bottles and, while the Council has no plans to provide additional bins, we work closely with An Taisce as part of the Green Schools Programme, in promoting and encouraging the avoidance of single use plastics in schools.

For the most part, schools are leaders in this area, with the majority of schools, in particular primary schools, having restrictions on single use plastic bottles and requiring each student to use a reusable bottle as part of their Healthy Lunch Policy. They also restrict single use wrapping, etc. in favour of lunch boxes.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

“That Meath County Council issues Compulsory Purchase Orders on the derelict sites on Flowerhill and uses the Derelict Act to its full extent to end dereliction in north Navan.”

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

The Flower Hill Regeneration project was one of three projects in Navan which was awarded funding in 2018 under the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF). This fund is designed to rejuvenate significant but underused areas in Ireland’s five cities and other large towns and to stimulate new residential and commercial development therein.



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The acquisition of a number of properties within the regeneration area are also at an advanced stage and a number of properties in this area are also included in the Vacant Sites register which aims to identify sites on residential or regeneration lands suitable for housing but not coming forward for development. The Council will also use CPO procedures to acquire properties where this is deemed necessary to advance the regeneration project.

The Council are tackling a number of properties in the area which are not within the URDF footprint under Derelict Sites legislation and have served statutory notices in this regard.

A Draft Public Realm Plan has also been prepared for Flowerhill and Abbeylands the aim of which is to address population decline, vacancy, dereliction and antisocial behaviour and making the area an attractive place to live and invest. In preparing the draft plan there has been extensive local public consultation and it anticipated that the draft will be placed on public display in March for a 4 week period. Key projects from this Plan will be included in further URDF applications.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Emer Tóibín** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

In light of the supporting information provided, the motion was noted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“I call on Meath County Council to carry out a feasibility report with a view to installing a pedestrian footpath crossing from St Mary's cemetery car park to connect with existing footpath at front of Glenveigh estate, Boyne Rd.”

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

Meath County Council Transportation Section has added this proposal to our ‘Request for Works’ database and will assess the suitability of this scheme for funding under future works programme.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons**.



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The motion was adopted.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“I propose that Meath County Council erects a graded surface on footpath (at traffic light side of R147 N3), at Watergate Street Junction to Flowerhill, to facilitate access for wheelchair users.”

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

Meath County Council will investigate this request and will provide a response to a later Navan Municipal District meeting.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Edward Fennessy**.

The motion was adopted.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly

“That the section of road and footpath from No. 5 to No. 36 Clusker Park be included as part of the restoration works in Clusker Park.”

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

It is intended to carry out road surfacing improvement works in 2020 on the roads in the two cul-de-sacs in Clusker Park, namely along 1-36 and 42-75. These works are to be confirmed by Members as part of the SMDW for 2020. Clusker Park is also on the provisional list for footpath remedial works in 2020 and, whilst the full extent of these works has not yet been identified, the scope shall be determined in most part by the condition rating of the relevant section of footpath in accordance with the condition rating survey of 2017.

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



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8 Strategic Policy Committee & Corporate Policy Group Reports – For Information Purposes

- 8.1 To note the report from the Planning Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC meeting of 19th December 2019.

The report was noted.

- 8.2 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC meeting of 22nd January 2020.

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

- 10.1 Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Asset Management raised the following issue:

10.1.1 Reminded councillors that a meeting would take place tomorrow in Buvinda House as part of the consultation on the Public Realm Plan for Flowerhill and that an application for URDF funding for Brews Hill would also be included for discussion.

- 10.2 Kevin Stewart raised the following issue:

10.2.1 Reminded councillors that the Economic Development Department in conjunction with Meath Chamber of Commerce was holding an Apprenticeship Expo on 25th February in Trim, with 2,000 already registered to attend and 66 exhibitors confirmed.

- 10.3 Councillor Tommy Reilly raised the following issue:

10.3.1 Requested that Meath County Council support Navan Shamrock Festival and St. Patrick's Day Parade this year, as in previous years, and complimented Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons on his continued involvement.



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10.4 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issue:

10.4.1 Gullies blocked in Belcourt.

10.5 Councillor Emer Tóibín raised the following issue:

10.5.1 Referred to the proposed laneway closure in Ferndale – an update was provided.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára