



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Special Planning Meeting

19th October 2020, Solstice Theatre @ 10.00a.m.

Presiding

Councillor David Gilroy, Cathaoirleach

Councillors Present:

Councillors, Tom Behan, Joe Bonner, Mike Bray, Aisling Dempsey, Seán Drew, Edward Fennessy, Brian Fitzgerald, Padraig Fitzsimons, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, Deirdre Geraghty-Smith, Trevor Golden, Wayne Harding, Geraldine Keogan, Nick Killian, Alan Lawes, Paul McCabe, Elaine McGinty, Paddy Meade, Ronan Moore, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Aisling O'Neill, Damien O'Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Amanda Smith, Alan Tobin, Emer Tóibín, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole, Conor Tormey.

Apologies: Councillors Yemi Adenuga, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Suzanne Jamal, Stephen McKee, Niamh Souhan

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Jackie Maguire

Directors of Service: Des Foley

Acting Director of Service: Larry Whelan

Planning Staff: Padraig Maguire (Senior Planner), Seán Clarke (Senior Executive Officer), Alan Russell (Acting Senior Planner)

The following participated by means of Zoom:

Cllr. Francis Deane

Officials: Fiona Lawless (Head of Finance), Barry Lynch (Director of Services), Robert Collins (Senior Executive Officer)

Rory McEntee, Council's Law Agent

Notice of Motion

"That the Elected Members of Meath County Council call for the adjournment of the Special Planning Meeting of the Council of October 19th-23rd, 2020, in the interests of public health and the health and wellbeing of Council staff and elected members until the appropriate legislation providing for the Council to hold remote meetings comes into effect and being not less than three days after the commencement of such legislation. The Elected Members of Meath County Council request clarity from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage with regard to the impact on statutory time lines, seek additional time, if required, for the process to ensure compliance with statutory obligations and further propose that a new date for the Special Planning Meeting will be



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considered at the monthly Council Meeting on November 2nd, 2020, if not already fixed prior to that date."

The motion which had been circulated to the Members on 14th October 2020 was proposed by the Cathaoirleach, Councillor David Gilroy and seconded by the Leas Cathaoirleach, Councillor Aisling Dempsey.

There were a number of interventions from the following Councillors: Sarah Reilly, Gillian Toole, Elaine McGinty, Aisling Dempsey, Wayne Harding, Nick Killian, Alan Tobin, Alan Lawes, Maria Murphy, Tommy Reilly and Gerry O'Connor.

Ms. Jackie Maguire, Chief Executive clarified a number of matters raised including the current public health guidance on the holding of Council meetings, the position regarding legislation for the holding of remote meetings, which has been enacted but not yet commenced and the requirement for revised Standing Orders to regulate the proceedings of such meetings.

Mr. Rory McEntee, Law Agent set out the legal position with reference to Sections 12 (6) and 12 (16) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) and the rational basis for extending the time limit for consideration of the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received on public health grounds. He also advised the Members on their obligation to have regard to national and regional policy and the circumstances in which a legal challenge to the Plan could be initiated.

The motion was then unanimously agreed on a show of hands.

The meeting adjourned at 10.40am.