



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

### **Ordinary Meeting**

**5<sup>th</sup> October 2020, Solstice Theatre @ 1.30p.m.**

#### **Presiding**

Councillor David Gilroy, Cathaoirleach

#### **Councillors Present:**

Councillors Yemi Adenuga, Tom Behan, Joe Bonner, Mike Bray, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, 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, Stephen McKee, Paddy Meade, Ronan Moore, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Aisling O'Neill, Damien O'Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Amanda Smith, Niamh Souhan, Alan Tobin, Emer Tóibín, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole, Conor Tormey.

**Apologies:** Councillor Suzanne Jamal

#### **Officials in attendance:**

**Chief Executive:** Jackie Maguire

**Directors of Service:** Des Foley, Fiona Lawless, Barry Lynch

**Meetings Administrator:** Robert Collins

**Senior Executive Officers:** Fiona Fallon, Larry Whelan

### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020, with a slight correction to Item 4.3, were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Paul McCabe**.

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

**Councillor Alan Tobin** sought an update on illegal signage. **Councillor Gillian Toole** provided an update on matters brought to the Regional Health Forum.



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

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

Sympathy was extended to:

- Councillor Joe Fox on the death of his mother Augusta Fox;
- Adrian Hobbs, Finance Department on the death of his mother, Mairead Hobbs;
- Joanne Husband, Housing on the death of her mother, Judy Husband.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Councillor Mike Bray and his fiancé Maureen Farrell;
- Ratoath Senior Football Champions and Gaeil Colmcille as beaten finalists
- Ballivor GAA – County Junior Football Champions
- Catriona Flaherty from What's for Pudding
- All involved in the Day for Darren campaign in Oldcastle in aid of Jigsaw
- Dunshaughlin GAA – Minor Football Champions
- Meath GAA

### **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 Finance**

5.1.1 To receive and note the 3 Year Capital Programme 2020, under S.135 of the Local Government Act 2001.

Ms. Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance provided an overview of the Council's three year Capital Programme, setting out the prioritisation of projects, the delivery of projects to date and a summary of the projects per Service Division.

There were interventions from the following Councillors: **Nick Killian; Joe Bonner; Noel French; Joe Fox; Sarah Reilly; Gerry O'Connor, Aisling Dempsey; Eugene Cassidy; Maria Murphy; Sharon Tolan; Gillian Toole; Michael Gallagher; Alan Tobin; Mike Bray; Sean Drew; Ronan Moore; Paul McCabe; Damien O'Reilly; Tom Behan and Elaine McGinty.**

Both the Chief Executive and the Ms. Lawless provided clarifications and responses to the various issues raised.

#### **5.2 Community**



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

5.2.1 To receive an update on the Louth & Meath Joint Migrant Integration Strategy 2019-2022.

Ms. Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community Department gave a presentation on the Strategy, including its origins and how it was developed, the extensive consultation process involved and the goals and priorities of the three year strategy and how they will be implemented.

There were interventions and questions from the following **Councillors: Nick Killian; Ronan Moore and Yemi Adenuga**. These dealt with the use of native languages to communicate directly with certain migrant groups; funding sources; proactive engagement with community groups; delivery stakeholders and the role of councillors; addressing racism and including a focus on children and young people.

5.2.2 To receive details of and approve the allocations under the Community Amenity Scheme as recommended by the Members of each of the Municipal Districts at the September Municipal District meetings.

The allocations were approved on a proposal by **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

5.2.3 To receive details and approve the allocation under the Carranstown Environmental Projects Grants Scheme 2019, as recommended by the Indaver Community Liaison Committee and endorsed by the Laytown/Bettystown Municipal District Councillors on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

The allocations were approved on a proposal by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Behan**.

5.2.4 To consider Arts Grants, Bursaries & Awards 2020 recommendations.

The recommendations were approved on a proposal by **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Edward Fennessy**.

### **5.3 Corporate Services**

5.3.1 That Meath County Council determines, in accordance with Standing Order 90 of its Standing Orders, to suspend the following Standing Orders for the purpose of holding its Special Planning Meeting in October 2020 on the Draft County Development Plan review process: 16 Notice of Motion; 29 and 36 Order of Debate and 51, 52 and 54 Attendance of Public and Media.



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

The Meetings Administrator outlined the various Standing Orders (S.O.) which were proposed for suspension to facilitate the efficient running of the Special Planning Meeting in October and also to strengthen adherence to the public health guidance. Specifically, it was proposed to suspend:

- S.O. 16 to enable more than two Notices of Motion from any elected member to be included on the agenda for the Special Planning Meeting.
- S.O. 29 to provide an option to the Cathaoirleach to propose a shorter speaking time during the week of the Special Planning Meeting, to be used only where this may be required due to time constraints.
- S.O. 36 to provide for members to remain seated when addressing the meeting in order to maintain the 2m physical distance at all times.
- S.O. 51, 52 and 54 to enable the Special Planning Meeting to be recorded and live-streamed to County Hall where members of the Press and Public will be accommodated. The meetings would be live-streamed to the Council Chamber only; with access to the Chamber by reservation only and the use of recording equipment in the Chamber would be prohibited.

There were interventions from the following **Councillors: Brian Fitzgerald; Nick Killian; Alan Tobin, Paddy Meade and Trevor Golden**. These addressed the recording of the meeting and how long the recording should be retained; the need for a contingency plan in the event of a lockdown; disagreement with a restriction on speaking time and the need to ensure that the minutes are an accurate record of the meeting. The Chief Executive confirmed that the recording will be used to verify the accuracy of the minutes and will be retained for no long than necessary.

The suspension of the Standing Orders, as set out, was agreed on a proposal by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**.

The meeting was also reminded of the Planning Workshop that was planned for Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 11.30am to 1.30pm in the Solstice Theatre, where further information on the process of the Special Planning Meeting would be provided. **Councillor Aisling O'Neill** asked if this workshop could be available for online participation.

## **6 Reports**

### **6.1 Chief Executive's Report**

There were a number of interventions from the following **Councillors: Gillian Toole; Nick Killian; Sean Drew; Alan Tobin; Paul McCabe; and Michael Gallagher**.

These interventions focused on the following matters:

Housing – welcome the additional detail provided on homeless services; acquisition of 1 and 2 bedroom properties; number of voids in the Kells area; use of funding to address the voids issue.

Environment – Dog fouling adverts and use of social media adverts more generally;

Library and Arts – Trim, September 1920 publication

Finance – Rates Waiver, stimulus package



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

Clarification on issues raised was provided by the Chief Executive, Larry Whelan, Barry Lynch and the Meetings Administrator.

### 6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator informed the meeting that the CPG had met on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> to review arrangements for the Council meeting and its draft agenda. The CPG received reports from the four SPCs and the Protocol Committee. The CPG also received an up-date on the revision of Standing Orders. Further guidance on Standing Orders is expected from the Department and it was agreed to defer the tabling of the revised Standing Orders on the Council Agenda until this guidance had been received. The CPG also discussed arrangements for future Council Meetings and in particular the Special Planning Meeting.

**Councillor Paddy Meade** raised a query about a proposal from the Climate Action and Environment SPC regarding car parking on the beaches. It was clarified that this would come before the next Council meeting.

### 6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator informed the meeting that the Protocol Committee had approved in principle a recommendation of the Civic Commemorations Committee for a commemorative plaque of an ambush in 1921 in Moynalty, subject to an agreement on the proposed wording. The Committee also considered correspondence from the European Charter of the Mayors for Peace regarding the Council becoming a member of the Charter. The Committee also approved two training webinars and a conference for members attendance in accordance with Circular LG04/2019.

**Councillor Nick Killian** raised the issue of IT issues experienced by elected members, which was also discussed at the Protocol Committee. **An Cathaoirleach** summarised the discussion that took place at the committee meeting, which included a proposal to collate all issues for the IT Department to address, while **Councillors Paul McCabe and Damien O'Reilly** also spoke. Ms. Fiona Lawless explained that IT staff would attend MD meetings to work through issues with all councillors.

## 7 Correspondence

### 7.1 Correspondence from Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government re. Commercial Rates.

**Councillor Gerry O'Connor** sought clarification on whether a response had been received on his September Motion regarding the baseline review.

Noted by the Elected Members.



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

- 7.2 Correspondence from Minister for Planning and Local Government in response to Notice of Motion 9.14 adopted at the September 2020 meeting of the full council re. LPT Equalisation Fund.

Noted by the Elected Members.

- 7.3 Correspondence from Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform in response to Notice of Motion 9.14 adopted at the September 2020 meeting of the full council re. LPT Equalisation Fund.

Noted by the Elected Members.

- 7.4 Correspondence from Minister for Planning and Local Government in response to Notice of Question 8.3 at the September 2020 meeting of the full council re. 'Flemish Decree' case.

Noted by the Elected Members.

- 7.5 LG 06-2020 – Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government re. Adjustment to Members' Representational Payment from 1 October 2020.

Noted by the Elected Members.

### **8 Notice of Question**

#### **8.1 Submitted by Councillor Nick Killian**

*"Can the CEO give an outline as to when Electric Car Charging points will be installed in Public Car Parking areas in Towns and villages throughout Co. Meath."*

#### **Response**

The National Climate Action Plan launched in June 2019 sets out a series of actions and targets including the development of an Electric Vehicle charging network necessary to support the growth of EVs to at least 800,000 by 2030 and set a target for the supply of infrastructure to stay sufficiently ahead of demand.

The Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) for the Eastern & Midlands Region and headed by Kildare County Council has examined funding streams to go towards the installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points and the Council will work closely with the CARO and other agencies in increasing the number of such facilities throughout the County.



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

With this in mind, a Local Authority EV Charging Infrastructure Working Group has been set up with a Director of Services from Fingal chairing. Both the CCMA Environment Committee and the LUTS Committee are represented. Fingal are leading out on the development of a strategy for EV charging for the 4 Dublin's which may inform the position of the Sector from a national perspective.

Noted by the Elected Members.

### **8.2 Submitted by Councillor Ronan Moore**

*"To ask the Chief Executive whether Meath County Council is owed any money from Road Opening Licensing; if so, the amounts of outstanding invoices owed to the Council; and by which entity or entities is said money owed."*

#### **Response**

The Road Management Office (RMO) facilitate the processing of all road opening licences through their online system and we are notified of applications received for County Meath. Applications are assessed, and if all the required documentation and detail is provided, and the decision is made to grant the licence, conditions are attached to the decision and the applicant is notified. If the applicant is not one of the large utility companies listed below, then they must pay the application fee, which is to cover the administration costs, in advance of the licence being issued. If the applicant is one of these utility companies, they will be billed for outstanding application fees on a monthly basis, based on figures supplied by the RMO from their system.

When applicants inform the Council that works have been completed, through a formal process on the system, the Council examines details of actual works carried out (size of road opening etc), and at this stage the applicant is billed for the applicable Long Term Impact Charge associated with these works.

There have been 885 Road Opening Licences generated on the system so far for 2020. 459 of these have been granted. The remainder are still in the processing and conditioning stages, or have been refused or withdrawn by the applicants.

At the beginning of 2020, there was approximately €250,600 owing on ROLs. The invoices issued for the current year, up to and including the 31<sup>st</sup> August totalled €643,770, and the money received in the same period was €723,690. That left a total of €170,680 owing at the start of September.

Of this, the money owed by the large Utility companies was approximately €124,937.15. Most of this debt refers to 2019 & 2020 works with some historical balances being investigated from previous years. The Utility companies involved are Eircom, Enet, Ervia, ESB, Gas Networks, Siro and Virgin Media.

**Councillor Ronan Moore** sought clarification on the breakdown on the monies owed.



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

Noted by the Elected Members.

### **8.3 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín**

*“What progress has been made regarding my motion that was submitted, discussed and passed at the March full Council Meeting;*

*‘that speed ramps and flashing lights are installed approaching the drop off and collection points of all country schools across Meath where levels of speeding endanger children trying to gain access to their school and where to date have not been installed despite ongoing calls from overwrought parents and teachers’.*”

#### **Response**

The Motion submitted and passed at the March meeting has been discussed at the meeting of the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee, held on 30<sup>th</sup> July. Suggestions arising from the discussion looked at the possibility of using various measures, other than just ramps at all schools.

Following that discussion, it was agreed to reflect on what had been raised and to come back with a structured approach. An undertaking has been given to re-visit this again at the December meeting of this SPC.

Noted by the Elected Members.

## **9 Notice of Motion**

### **9.1 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole (Deferred from September Meeting)**

*“That Meath County Council seeks "Garda vetting for one [organisation], Garda vetting for all" with a two-year review, as a way to ensure the continuation and participation of community volunteers in improving the quality of life of Meath residents.”*

In introducing her motion **Councillor Gillian Toole** outlined the current vetting process and while there were improvements, there is still a level of duplication which is a poor use of resources. She also suggested that the motion, if agreed, would be circulated to the Minister for Justice and Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. There was also an intervention by **Councillor Noel French**. The motion, proposed by **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**, was agreed.





## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

### **9.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

*"That Meath County Council commences a social media campaign in conjunction with An Garda Síochana to discourage bonfires in public spaces and to encourage people to engage with local Gardai in combating unruly behaviour in the run-up to and including Halloween night."*

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

The Council has in the past worked with the Fire Service to prevent and discourage activity around Halloween that may be dangerous and have a negative impact on the local environment. It will continue to do and will work with An Garda Síochana and others, where possible, to promote responsible behaviour in the run-up to and on the night of Halloween and will complement any national campaigns with local targeted messaging on the dangers of bonfires, discouraging them in public spaces and generally promoting responsible Halloween activities, especially in the context of the prevailing public health restrictions.

In introducing his motion **Councillor Alan** outlined the various problems than bonfires create for the community, the local environment and the Council in terms of dealing with the aftermath. He was supported by an intervention by **Councillor Paddy Meade**. The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**, was agreed.

### **9.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Lawes**

*"Call on Meath County Council to provide assistance to out of hours homeless emergency calls."*

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

Meath County Council's Emergency Out of Hours number covers all services provided by the Local Authority, including Housing, in the event that an emergency situation arises outside normal working hours.

The homeless service provided through the Emergency Out of Hours number is focused where the need for emergency accommodation arises from an emergency, that is, from an unexpected and sudden event, namely instances where families/persons are rendered homeless as a result of fire/flood. All calls received by the Emergency Out Of Hours facility from such emergency scenarios are responded to.

All other calls logged regarding homelessness are dealt with on the next working day. In addition to the above, the necessary emergency out of hours arrangements for homelessness are instigated through the Emergency Out of Hours Service for severe weather episodes, as and when such episodes occur, and annually, for the public holidays that occur during the course of the Christmas season.



## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The experience of Meath County Council’s Homeless Service highlights the following points, which members are asked to consider in their review of this Notice of Motion:

- Cases of rough sleepers are present in the County, though the numbers are low in the context of the overall homeless presentation numbers
- Rough sleeping does not generally materialise for an individual for the first time in an out of hours context. The majority of rough sleepers are already known to the Homeless Service, and prior engagement has already taken place, with services offered where appropriately available.
- The contributing factors that lead to a person rough sleeping are typically health related, with significant addiction and /or mental health issues being present
- Based on the contributing factors highlighted, the requirement to complete a holistic needs assessment is imperative, so as to ensure the appropriate referrals are made to health and welfare services , with an appropriate emergency accommodation placement being made where available. This assessment is required in order to comply with the Council’s obligations as a housing authority and to ensure the safety both of the client and equally, the safety of other persons that also occupy and operate emergency accommodation premises.

Members are reminded of the fact that no emergency accommodation hostel facility exists in the County. Accordingly, in the absence of such a facility, the aforementioned holistic assessment cannot be conducted in an out of hours scenario. Therefore, the appropriate safe placement of such clients is not feasible in an out of hours context, with the risks attached to an approach of simply placing a rough sleeper without prior examination, into a non-supervised facility, such as a B&B , deemed to be high, and is an approach that is not recommended.

Four scenarios of rough sleeping has been highlighted in 2020, in the context of the Out of Hours service. While it is not appropriate to provide exact details on each of the scenarios, a high level overview is provided below to ensure a sufficient level of fact is available to the members on those cases that have been put forward as justifying the need for an out of hours service for instances of rough sleeping:

TIME PERIOD	PROFILE	CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS	ACTION/OUTCOME
January 2020	Male (1)	Mental Health	Emergency accommodations arranged following assessment. History of rough sleeping in other Counties. Client departed emergency accommodation within one hour. No follow up contact made with Homeless Service thereafter
March 2020	Male (3)	Addiction	All persons known to services, with supports previously provided, including emergency accommodation. One person had an emergency accommodation on evening the call was logged with out of hours service



### Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

April 2020	Couple (Male & Female)	Mental Health (Female)	Female left family home as a result of disagreement with parent. Placed in emergency accommodation following assessment
September 2020	Male (2)	N/A	Emergency accommodation arranged pending assessment, with translator to be present. Clients reported to have been rough sleeping since March 2020. Assessed previously by another Local Authority, and issued with a sleeping bag. Reported to be have been begging on streets in Navan. Remained two nights in emergency accommodation prior to arranged assessment and did not attend for assessment. No follow up contact made with Homeless Service thereafter

Meath County Council is committed to the continual strategic development of its homeless service in order to provide a quality and meaningful service. A number of strands have been significantly advanced in recent years, in particular for those high support clients such as rough sleepers, including the creation of a number of supported emergency accommodation models in conjunction with the Simon Community, tenancy sustainment services and an active interagency framework to underpin shared case management, in the form of the monthly Homeless Action Team meetings.

Furthermore, Meath County Council has been to the fore in the roll out of the Housing First model in the Mid-East Region, which is the ultimate targeted response to rough sleeping, with the necessary intense health and welfare supports are provided in parallel with a tenancy. Meath County Council has established six Housing First tenancies in the County through its own housing stock during 2020, with a further 4 referrals with the programme implementer (Peter McVerry Trust). The Housing Department will continue to direct resources to advance homeless services in this vein.

In the context of Covid-19, Meath County Council has a detailed Isolation Plan in place in the event that a homeless person is required to isolate, with a number of units fully furnished and earmarked for this purpose.

The current Mid East Regional Homeless Action Plan is currently being reviewed, with a new plan being developed for the period 2021-2023. This will go before the Housing, Community & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee before year end, prior to consideration by full Council. The matter of the out of hours homeless services can be further examined within that strategic process.

In introducing his motion **Councillor Alan Lawes** outlined his experience in dealing with rough sleeper and how they are accommodated in emergency situations. Both **Councillors Gillian Toole** and **Tom Behan** outlined their experiences and the responsive approach taken by the Council's Housing Department to dealing with a problem, which extends beyond the issue of homelessness. The supporting information and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Alan Lawes** and seconded by **Councillor Edward Fennessy**, was agreed.



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

### **9.4 Submitted by Councillor Paul McCabe**

*“That Meath County Council undertakes to transition from traditional paper copy to an online platform for receiving planning permission applications and further information responses in order to be more environmentally friendly and cost efficient. This would also improve efficiency, reduce the potential for invalid applications, and deliver on the government strategy to move more public services online.”*

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

At national level, a decision was made to introduce an online planning system which necessitated a revision of the legislation and various processes to do with the planning process. This initiative is ongoing and Meath County Council awaits the introduction of ePlanning which is being rolled out by the Local Government Management Agency. This will cater for submitting planning applications online. It is currently not open to Meath County Council to introduce its own system pending the introduction of a national ePlanning system.

In introducing his motion **Councillor Paul McCabe** outlined the benefits of a transition to an e-planning system and informed the meeting that the LGMA testing of the system was at an advanced stage. He proposed an amendment to his motion calling for additional resources for the delivery of the system. The supporting information and the amended motion, proposed by **Councillor Paul McCabe** and seconded by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly**, was noted.

### **9.5 Submitted by Councillor Ronan Moore**

*“That Meath County Council seeks to introduce Communication Boards into all council owned playgrounds & relevant amenities, so as to assist children or adults who are either pre-verbal/non-verbal or have communication difficulties in fully enjoying council owned amenities.”*

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

It is acknowledged that communication boards can be a useful mechanism to allow children and adults to communicate when they wouldn't otherwise be able to do so. However, the provision of boards in all playgrounds and amenities in the county may not be suitable as the demand or need for them may not be there.

In order to determine the need for these boards in the county, funding could be sought through available grant schemes for the installation of a communication board in an agreed location. Depending on the success of initial board, the installation of any further communication boards would be subject to financial resources being available.

There were interventions from **Councillors: Ronan Moore** and **Sarah Reilly**. The supporting information and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Ronan Moore** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Lawes**, was noted.



## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

### **9.6 Submitted by Councillor Tom Behan**

*"In the interest of Public Health and Safety that Meath County Council writes to the Minister of Health Stephen Donnelly T.D. and recommend that a ban on the use of E-cigarettes and vaping, similar to that of the smoking ban, be implemented immediately. This ban should include but not be limited to the workplace, public transport, healthcare and education facilities, cafes, bars and restaurants."*

There were interventions from **Councillors: Tom Behan; Mike Bray and Gillian Toole**. **Councillor Behan** explained that he has raised this issue at a number of levels recently, included at the Regional Health Forum, where he had received a response but no further action. It was explained that this is also a live issue when it comes to addressing the spread of Covid-19. The motion, proposed by **Councillor Tom Behan** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray**, was agreed.

### **9.7 Submitted by Councillor Gerry O'Connor**

*"That Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Health, the Department of Health and NPHE to make available weekly or bi-monthly, details of confirmed COVID-19 cases on a townland basis. This would ensure further compliance with COVID-19 measures and encourage the principle of "We are all in this together" bringing communities together to reduce the spread of the virus locally."*

There were interventions from **Councillors: Gerry O'Connor; Alan Tobin, Paddy Meade and Sharon Tolan** supporting the call for more data and clearer information at a level that people will understand and identify with. The proposer of the motion requested that it be circulated to all local authorities. **Councillor Paul McCabe** had concerns that data at the level of townland could expose personal data. The motion, proposed by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**, was agreed.

### **9.8 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole**

*"Meath County Council calls upon the Departments of Communications, Climate Action and Environment & Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine to introduce a remunerated DUMP [dispose of unwanted medicines properly] scheme, through pharmacies to promote the safe and appropriate disposal of animal & human medicines, to reduce pharmaceutical waste in the environment."*

**Councillor Gillian Toole** presented her motion and outlined the scale of the problem worldwide and the wide-scale implications that the disposal of unwanted medicine and veterinary products has on the environment, water quality, aquatic and human health and called for a pilot scheme to address this issue locally. She also suggested that the motion should also be addressed to the Department of Health.



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

The amended motion, proposed by **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**, was agreed.

### **9.9 Submitted by Councillor Alan Lawes**

*“Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection to increase the Minimum Wage by at least 2% or more in order to support the lowest paid workers in society especially as many of these same workers are on the frontline and have worked throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.”*

There were interventions from **Councillors: Alan Lawes; Alan Tobin, Nick Killian; Sharon Tolan; Aisling O’Neill; Gerry O’Connor and Brian Fitzgerald** all of which supported the intention of the motion but also suggesting an amendment as follows:

*“Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection to increase the Minimum Wage to a Living Wage for all in order to support the lowest paid workers in society especially as many of these same workers are on the frontline and have worked throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.”*

The amended motion, proposed by **Councillor Alan Lawes** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**, 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

10.3 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Housing

10.4 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Community & Enterprise

### **11 Any Other Business**

**Councillor Gillian Toole** sought an up-date from the ESB on their upgrading works and what that may mean for electricity supplies in local communities.

**Councillor Maria Murphy** highlighted the lack of information on the Civil Defence Headquarters opening and the Migrant Integration Strategy launch.

**Councillor Nick Killian** raised an issue about water supply in Clonalvy.