



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 16th December 2020, via Zoom

An Meára, **Councillor Francis Deane**, presided.

Councillors Present: Yemi Adenuga, Edward Fennessy, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Alan Lawes, Tommy Reilly and Emer Tóibín.

Officials in Attendance:

A/Director of Service: Larry Whelan

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Assistant Engineer: Shane Casserly

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Apologies: Paul O'Brien, Executive Engineer

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 11th November 2020.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th November 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Edward Fennessy**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of the Special Finance Meeting held on 11th November 2020.

The minutes of the Special Finance Meeting held on 11th November 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Councillor Gerry O'Connor on the death of his mother, Eileen.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Gary Rogers, Bohermeen who recently retired from League of Ireland Soccer, following an illustrious career.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

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

The report had been circulated in advance and a further update was provided at the meeting.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Wished Paul O'Brien a speedy recovery and wished Shane well in his role.
- Requested that the roads in Belcourt be resurfaced instead of annual filling of potholes.
- Queried the role of the council in clearing leaves from footpaths, e.g. Trim Road.
- Welcomed works in various locations, including the fence outside Troytown Heights, verge cutting at the pedestrian entrance and also the playground in Clogherboy.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Queried why the works had stopped at the playground in Claremont – the seeding will take place in January or February.
- Requested that gullies be cleaned in estates such as Belcourt and Emmet Terrace.
- Requested that the works at the Ramparts be adequately supervised and underlined the need to liaise with relevant landowners – regular inspections will be undertaken.
- Queried the proposed width of the walkway at the Ramparts – in response to COVID, the minimum width will be 2.4m.
- Queried whether the proposed ramps in Johnstown are subject to funding – the tenders due back today will indicate the cost and appropriate funding will be sought.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“What is the present status concerning the tendering process for the installation of toilet facilities and changing rooms at Blackwater Park?”

Response:

The tendering process for the toilets/changing facilities in Blackwater Park has been completed. The submitted tenders are currently being assessed and it is hoped to have a recommendation available within the coming weeks. Any decision to proceed will be dependent on the tendered costs of the proposed project.

The response was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

"How many social housing voids do we have in Navan and what is the average turnaround time for bringing them back into use?"



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Response:

There are currently 7 vacant units in Navan that require pre let works before they are available for allocation.

Based on 2020 data, the average time incurred in completing pre let works on vacant units in Navan is 13.3 weeks.

The response was noted.

5.3 Submitted by Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons

“Whilst in support of ramps throughout the town and in estates as a traffic calming measure, is it possible to add a fluorescent or high visibility colour to part of the speed ramps to make motorists more aware of ramps, especially in areas of poor visibility?”

Response:

In line with the Traffic Signals Manual we use triangular road markings on speed ramps. The materials currently used have retro reflective qualities, by the addition of glass beads on the ramped sections, which can help with visibility at night. Some of the ramps we’ve installed have a red pigment on the ramp which helps the road markings stand out. However, it is important to ensure that Traffic Calming Measures such as speed ramps are applied in a consistent manner nationally.

In general, the practice of MCC is to ensure that all speed ramps are installed within 5m of Public Lighting, to assist with visibility.

The response was noted. Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons referred to the impact of heavy traffic on the white markings on ramps, which make them difficult to see in certain light and recommended that national standards be changed to allow for fluorescent markings to be mandatory.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

“With a view to availing of heritage grants (2021), I call on Meath County Council to carry out a detailed inspection report on the structure of the walls surrounding Old Athlumney Graveyard and Ardmulchan Graveyard.”

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

The Heritage Officer will undertake a site inspection at both sites before Christmas to examine the extent of repairs required and to prepare a timeline to secure the necessary technical assistance/assessments/consents required to advance any funding application.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**, was agreed.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“I propose that Meath County Council install chicanes for safety reasons/traffic calming purposes, on Donaghmore Lane, due to dangerous overuse of said lane by HGVs.”

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

Chicanes are usually used in urban areas rather than on rural roads. In fact, the traffic management design documents do not cover chicanes for rural roads. It is proposed that the matter is investigated to determine if a dangerous situation is being created by HGVs on the lane.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**, was agreed.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons

“I propose the motion to discuss the merits of changing the traffic flow through Emmet Terrace thereby reducing traffic and increasing safety for the residents.”

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



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Any viable proposals arising from the discussion can be added to the Requests for New Works database, for future prioritisation of schemes following an engineering screening/evaluation assessment.

A discussion followed with reference made to the general profile of residents of Emmet Terrace and the need for safe pedestrian access for residents on a roadway which attracts high traffic levels using the road as a short cut. It was requested that consideration be given to making it one-way from the Brews Hill side. In addition, reference was made to the narrow width of the footpath on Boreen Keel which is inadequate for wheelchairs/buggies and does not facilitate safe access to the playground. As this area is on the periphery of the Navan 2030 scheme, it was requested that something be done, even the adjustment of traffic flows.

An update was requested on the proposals previously discussed for Cannon Row, Emmet Terrace and Brews Hill by consultants earlier this year – it was confirmed that this was subject to a URDF application, the decision on which is to be announced soon. If approved, funding will cover the entire project over 7 years and the detailed design process could commence in Q1 2021.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Edward Fennessy**, was agreed.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

"This council agrees to install display units at strategic points in the town that will contain historic photos and a brief history on the street of their location."

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

In order to examine the potential to develop or progress a project to install a series of display panels (such as the example attached) – a survey to identify suitable strategic points within the town having regard to available archive of historical photographs, land ownership, public accessibility, planning/environmental considerations, design and cost estimate of panels. The Heritage Office will commit to undertake this survey in collaboration with the Navan and District Historical Society to be completed in Q1 2021.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Lawes**, was agreed.

6.5 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

"This council agrees to carry out a traffic impact survey on the St. Oliver's N.S./Blackcastle junction on the R162 with a view to carrying out changes to improve traffic flow entering the town. Particular emphasis should be given to the creation of a filter road to divert traffic accessing Blackcastle from the R162."

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

There is currently no provision in the Capital Programme for the carrying out of an assessment or for the re-design and re-construction of the junction. If funding became available in the future, there are other issues with the junction that would have to be addressed in any alteration of the junction, and the inclusion of cycle lanes would also be an objective.

The traffic signals are regularly maintained and the phasing is already optimised to facilitate traffic flows whilst maintaining crossing time for school children.

The re-design of the junction will be added to the new works request list for consideration in the future.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**, was agreed.

6.6 Referred by MCC

"To ask Meath County Council to offer 2 hours of free parking to shoppers in all Meath towns for the month of December to help both shoppers and shop owners who have lost so much to Covid and the restrictions."

It was pointed out that an email with proposed additional incentives had been circulated and, as no response had been received, the details, which were outlined, had been published on social media.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The motion was withdrawn.

7 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Councillor Edward Fennessy raised the following issue:

8.1.1 Referred to the backlog of taxis on the rank at Kennedy Road and suggested that a system to allow taxis to double up be provided and also that a taxi rank at Aldi on Brews Hill be provided over Christmas – it was agreed to see if additional space was available at Kennedy Road to allow doubling up as a temporary measure. With regard to Brews Hill, a byelaw would be required and this involves a public consultation period, with a decision due by March. It was suggested that this process could commence whilst checking if the process can be bypassed as a temporary measure due to COVID.

8.2 Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons raised the following issues:

8.2.1 Referred to the taxi rank at Market Square, which is currently under utilised, and queried whether this can be converted to provide car parking spaces, which would benefit local businesses – it was agreed to check the Navan 2030 plans, as this area will form part of the next phase of works.

8.2.2 Queried whether plans are in place to finish the resurfacing of the lane after Donaghmore Lane towards Kilberry – it was agreed to check this.

8.3 Councillor Alan Lawes raised the following issue:

8.3.1 Referred to the urgent need for a wet hostel in Meath – it was agreed to see if there any plans in place.

8.4 Councillor Francis Deane raised the following issue:

8.4.1 Requested that the road sweeper be deployed to Donaghmore Lane.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- 8.4.2 Queried whether there are plans to put up bunting in advance for the Meath Ladies Football team – a social media campaign to support the team is planned.
- 8.4.3 Referred to the need to repair the public light at St. Benilda's Villas.
- 8.5 Dara McGowan raised the following issue:
 - 8.5.1 Confirmed that a site in Beechmount, which had previously been leased to the boxing club, had recently returned to the control of the council as no development had taken place on the site. A request for a long-term lease had been received from the childcare facility, which occupies the adjacent site, in order for an extension of that facility. This request, and any other received, will be brought for consideration in January.

The Mayor wished everyone a very happy Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára