



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

1st February 2021, (via Zoom only) @ 1.30p.m.

Presiding

Councillor David Gilroy, Cathaoirleach

Councillors Present:

Councillors Tom Behan, Joe Bonner, Mike Bray, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Aisling Dempsey, Seán Drew, Edward Fennessy, Brian Fitzgerald, Pádraig Fitzsimons, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, Trevor Golden, Wayne Harding, Suzanne Jamal, 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: Councillors Yemi Adenuga; Deirdre Geraghty-Smith.

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Jackie Maguire

Directors of Service: Des Foley, Fiona Lawless, Barry Lynch, Larry Whelan,

Meetings Administrator: Robert Collins

Senior Executive Officers: Dara McGowan, Fiona Fallon, Sean Clarke

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 7th December 2020.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 7th December 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Statement by An Cathaoirleach, Councillor David Gilroy on the Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes

An Cathaoirleach made the following statement:

"As Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council and on behalf of the elected members, I wish to apologise unreservedly to the girls, young women and their babies, the survivors and those now deceased and their relatives for the pain and suffering caused while resident at the Dunboyne Mother and Baby Home.

"An Taoiseach Michéal Martin T.D. issued a formal apology on behalf of the State to former residents of the Mother and Baby Home and County Homes institutions, following the publication of the Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes, (on January 12th).



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“The Government now intends to give detailed consideration to the Report over the coming months with a view to developing a comprehensive Government Action Plan to address eight specific themes to include:

- *A survivor-centred approach;*
- *Apology;*
- *Access to Personal Information;*
- *Archiving and Databases;*
- *Education and Research;*
- *Memorialisation;*
- *Restorative Recognition; and*
- *Dignified Burial.*

“In 1954, Meath County Council partnered with five neighbouring local authorities (Louth, Longford, Monaghan, Cavan and Westmeath) to establish the Mother and Baby Home in Dunboyne, which operated from 1955 until it closed in 1991. Due to the location of the home, Meath County Council was the lead authority in the setting up of this institution and this is set out in some detail in the published report.

“The establishment of the home, known as Ard Mhuire, was the only new institution established in the State for unmarried mothers in response to a Department of Health circular issued to each city and county manager and each public assistance authority in 1952. The circular was quite specific about the role of such institutions.

“Meath County Council played a central role in the acquisition of the house and the negotiation with the Good Shepherd Sisters for the establishment and running of a mother and baby home in Dunboyne. This is outlined in the Report, which also sets out how the Council was involved in the maintenance of the home, its financial arrangements and many of the decision-making functions at Ard Mhuire, in the early years before the establishment of the Health Boards in 1970, when the North-Eastern Health Board took over from Meath County Council as the relevant health authority.

“The Report outlines that a total of 3,156 mothers were resident in Dunboyne over the period. It was not intended that there would be any births there, but eight babies are recorded as being born there and 1,148 of the children born to Dunboyne resident mothers spent time there.

“Many of the inspections carried out by the Department of Health while the facility was operational and a number of the testimonies from former residents point to a home that was well kept, it was clean and the residents were well looked after physically. However, there were also concerns, and complaints outlined in the Report, about the adoption process.

“Meath County Council acknowledges its role in the establishment and operation of the Dunboyne Mother and Baby Home. The Council apologises to the residents, their children, their families and the



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relatives of those who resided in the Dunboyne Home and who suffered or were mis-treated while resident there, when the home was under the control of the Council from 1955 to 1970.

“The Council also recognises that it had an association with the Castlepollard Mother and Baby Home in Westmeath, which operated from 1935 to 1971. Meath County Council met the cost of accommodating girls and women from Meath at the Castlepollard Home. The Council notes that one of its Councillors wrote to the Department of Local Government in 1945 asking that it set up a Commission of Inquiry into conditions in Castlepollard but that this ultimately did not result in any significant change. Again, the Council wishes to apologise to the survivors and the families of those who were resident in Castlepollard.

“In September 2016, the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes contacted Meath County Council in relation to records concerning the Mother and Baby Home in Dunboyne. Given the period under consideration by the Commission, historical records in relation to the administration of Meath County Council are archived in the County Library and the Commission was given access to all available material.

“Meath County Council will actively participate with Government in furthering the development of the Government Action Plan as it relates to local government and as it relates to county Meath.

“Meath County Council commits to supporting local measures that form part of the suite of follow-up actions, for example, in relation to memorialisation and access to archives and records.

“As Cathaoirleach, and with the agreement of the elected Council, I will write to the Government requesting that it brings forward, without delay, the legislation required to enable survivors to access their records and personal information, which will be an important step in addressing the concerns expressed by the residents in Dunboyne about the adoption process.

“While the Council’s apology cannot undo the past, it is acknowledgement of our deep regret that the girls and young women were failed by the State and a recognition that the Council was part of that failure”.

Following the statement, it was agreed that Items 10.6 and 10.7 would be withdrawn.

4 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Cllr. Cllr. Gerry O’Connor on the death of his mother, Eileen O’Connor.
- Cllr. Pdraig Fitzsimons on the death of his father and former Councillor, Paddy Fitzsimons.
- Cllr. Geraldine Keogan & Senator Sharon Keogan on the death of their mother, Teresa Keogan.
- Mr. Pat Kinsella, Water Services on the death of his brother, Joe Kinsella.



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- Ms. Esther Mulvihill, Corporate Services on the death of her mother, Sheila Bowler.
- Mr. Paul McKown, Transportation on the death of his father, Denis McKown.
- Mr. Francis Duffy, Water Services on the death of his father, Edward Joseph (Eddie) Duffy.
- Ms. Mary Dunne, Transportation on the death of her father-in-law, Joseph Dunne.
- The family of the late Patrick Fanning, former employee.
- The family of the late Ambrose Cassells, former employee.
- The Family and friends of the late John Heffernan, East Meath United.
- The family of the late Paddy Murchan, former principal of Moynalty primary school.
- The family of the late Terry Byrne (with thanks to Meath Civil Defence and members of the various rescue teams that conducted searches).
- The family of the late Helen Callan, community activist Navan.
- The family of the late Joe Dunne, former member of Kells UDC

Congratulations were extended to:

- Cllr Deirdre Geraghty-Smith and her husband Gordon on the birth of their daughter;
- Cllr Paul McCabe on the 100year anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Salford
- Mr Joe Biden on his election as President of the United States of America

It was also agreed to write a letter of appreciation to Ms. Catherine Corless.

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

6 Statutory Business

6.1 Corporate Services

6.1.1 To adopt the 2021 Annual Service Delivery Plan.

There were some comments and questions on the draft Plan from **Councillors Gillian Toole; Paddy Meade; Noel French** and **Aisling O'Neill**. These related to the risks identified with Water Services and Community and on the use of AHB in maximising the delivery of social housing. Responses were provided by the Chief Executive and Mr Barry Lynch, Director of Services.

On a proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Paul McCabe** the Annual Service Delivery Plan was agreed. Councillor Paddy Meade was not in agreement.

6.2 Planning

6.2.1 To receive the Members' views in respect of a proposed development by CAP Developments LLC (PL17.308628), for development described as 110kV gas insulated switchgear substation compound, associated dropdown transmission lines, and associated development at Drogheda IDA Business and Technology Park, Donore Road, Drogheda, Co. Meath, the subject of the Chief Executive's Report to An Bord Pleanála of January 2021 (as circulated) and, if thought fit, to resolve to attach recommendations to that report in accordance with Section 37(E) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2019.



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Ms. Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner, made a presentation to the Council detailing the main points set out within the Chief Executive's Report relating to the above application and advised that the Chief Executive had recommended a favourable response in relation to this application. Following the presentation, there was an opportunity to comment, ask questions, and seek clarification on a number of issues, with contributions from **Councillors Alan Tobin; Paddy Meade; Elaine McGinty; Ronan Moore; Tom Behan; Sharon Tolan; and Wayne Harding.**

A summary of the comments and views expressed included:

- Members supported the application;
- Asked that An Bord Pleanála ensure that a community benefit fund be conditioned as part of any grant;
- Asked that the development would be screened to protect the views from the River Boyne;
- Development should be incorporated into the landscape whereby it complimented its surroundings.

6.3 Community

6.3.1 To receive a presentation from Meath Comhairle na nÓg.

The meeting was addressed by Ms. Margarita Baturova and Ms. Emily Navagh from Meath Comhairle na nÓg, who provided an overview of the role and work of Comhairle, with a focus on some of the specific topics that they have recently been involved in, the latest of which is facilities for young people. The current lack of facilities had knock-on impacts, as there were no designated places for young people to gather and they are often moved on or there is a perception of young people engaging in anti-social behaviour. Comhairle na nÓg has identified a number of actions, which were set out in the presentation, including centralised youth facilities.

There were responses and contributions from the following **Councillors: Mike Bray; Ronan Moore; Noel French; Maria Murphy; Elaine McGinty; Nick Killian; Gerry O'Connor; Paul McCabe; Alan Lawes; and Edward Fennessy.** Ms. Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community Department, also responded to some issues raised. An Cathaoirleach thanked the Comhairle na nÓg participants including Mr. Peter Mulligan, Comhairle Co-ordinator, and Ms. Joan Carroll from the Community Department, and it was agreed that there would be future regular engagements between the Council and Comhairle.

6.3.2 To approve a replacement member of the Meath LCDC & LAG, Tom Oxley representing the Health Service Executive.

The nomination was proposed by **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Paul McCabe** and agreed.

6.4 Transportation

6.4.1 Presentation on the scope and approach of the Navan Railway Line Assessment Study by the National Transport Authority and the appointed Consultants.



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An Cathaoirleach welcomed the representatives from the National Transportation Authority (NTA) and AECOM consultants. He provided some background on the recent engagements between the Council and the NTA and Mr. Hugh Creegan, Deputy Chief Executive, NTA provided an introduction to the current assessment study and the process involved. Mr Des Foley, Director of Services, set out the importance of the Navan Railway to the county, the close collaboration between the Council and the NTA to date and an overview of the work undertaken to date.

Mr Damien Lambert, Project Manager for the Assessment Study, gave an overview of the scope and objectives of the study and the five main workstreams including: Route Validation; Cost Forecasting; Population and Employment Projections; Transport Modeling and Socio-Economic Assessment.

The four chairs of the Strategic Policy Committees opened the discussion with interventions from **Councillors Pdraig Fitzsimons; Eugene Cassidy; Trevor Golden and Damien O'Reilly** providing summaries of the main issues that had been raised by their SPCs at previous engagements on the Navan Railway. Additional points and questions were raised by **Councillors Paddy Meade; Ronan Moore; Nick Killian; Gillian Toole; Mike Bray; Gerry O'Connor; Emer Tóibín; Sean Drew; Noel French; Alan Lawes; Michael Gallagher; Alan Tobin; Joe Fox; Edward Fennessy; and Sharon Tolan.**

Mr Hugh Creegan responded on a number of matters raised, including on (a) the catchment area for the study; (b) the planning and development process; (c) the issue of fares, fare structures and subsidies; (d) a weighting of the objectives of the assessment; (e) project timelines; (f) construction inflation; (g) alternative options; and (h) profitability of the line. The Chief Executive concluded the discussion by underlining that this was the start of a process and she thanked the NTA for the significant investment made in the county in recent times and the promised additional staff that would be assigned to sustainable transport projects in the coming years.

7 Reports

7.1 Chief Executive's Report

There were comments and clarification sought by **Councillors Mike Bray; Nick Killian; Gillian Toole; Alan Tobin; Paddy Meade; Joe Fox; Edward Fennessy; Sharon Tolan** and **Michael Gallagher** on a number of matters in the Report. The main issues focused on:

Housing – purchase of lands; delays in delivery; Vacant Sites Action Plan; Stamullen housing; traveller accommodation in St Patrick's Park and St Francis Park; Alverno and Sheppard's Lodge developments, CPO and vacant properties.

Environment – Green Kilometre scheme; illegal waste operators; fly-tipping awareness campaign

Economic Development – trading online vouchers;

Finance – commercial rates for 2021;

Transportation – tender for bus shelters; Kilberry footpaths; Grange-Clontail Part 8 – underpasses for farmers; progress with Spine Road.

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

7.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group



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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 also discussed the state-of-play regarding the Special Planning Meeting. It also received reports from the four SPCs and approved a recommendation of the Transportation SPC on traffic calming measures outside country schools, which would be brought before the March Council for approval. The CPG also noted a suggestion to hold a joint virtual meeting with Cary, Meath's Sister City, which would celebrate its 150th anniversary in April.

7.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator provided a short report on the February meeting of the Protocol Committee, which included the consideration of two recommendations from the Civic Commemorations Committee (CCC) on: (a) a proposal from the Kells MD; and (b) a proposal from the Navan MD. The Protocol Committee deferred its decision on the Kells proposal and endorsed the recommendation from the CCC not to proceed with the Navan proposal.

The Protocol Committee also received an up-date from the IT Department on issues raised by the elected members. The Committee heard that progress on resolving matters is on-going. The issue of elected members accessing their Council email accounts on the mobile phones has now been introduced and available to members.

8 Correspondence

8.1 Correspondence from Minister for Transport in response to Notice of Motion 9.2 adopted at the November 2020 meeting of the full Council re. Greener Alternatives to Traditional Transport.

Noted by the Elected Members.

8.2 Correspondence from Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications in response to Notice of Motion 9.8 adopted at the December 2020 meeting of the full Council re. future of the post office network.

Noted by the Elected Members.

8.3 Correspondence from Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform in response to Notice of Motion 9.8 adopted at the December 2020 meeting of the full Council re. future of the post office network.

Noted by the Elected Members.

8.4 Correspondence from the Minister for Justice in response to Notice of Motion 9.1 adopted at the October 2020 meeting of the full Council re. Garda vetting.

Noted by the Elected Members.

8.5 Correspondence from the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage in response to Notice of Motion 9.5 adopted at the December 2020 meeting of the full Council re. Housing



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Assistance Payment (HAP).

Noted by the Elected Members.

8.6 Correspondence from Senator Robbie Gallagher enclosing letter received from Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage Darragh O'Brien re. Developer Provider Water Services Infrastructure Resolution Programme (DPI's).

Noted by the Elected Members.

8.7 Draft 2021 Allocations - NTA's Sustainable Transport Measures Grants - Meath Projects.

Noted by the Elected Members.

8.8 Correspondence from the OPR/Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in relation to new public information leaflets on various aspects of Ireland's planning process.

Noted by the Elected Members.

8.9 Circular Fin 1/2021 – Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage re. Commercial Rates Waiver for First Quarter 2021.

Noted by the Elected Members.

9 Notice of Question

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"How much is owed to Meath County Council in rent arrears for its residential properties?"

Response

As of December 31, 2020, the approximate level of rent arrears is at €1.6m which represents a collection rate of 88%. When compared to December 31, 2019, there was an increase in arrears of €330K, and a decrease in the collection rate of 1%. This figure is inclusive of arrears in relation to, RAS, Social Leasing and Shared Ownership. In 2020/21 the situation is dynamic due to employment volatility caused by the Covid 19 pandemic. Meath County Council works closely with tenants in arrears and implements individual payment plans where appropriate.

Noted by the Elected Members.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

"To ask MCC to illustrate in tabular form the number of one-off rural housing applications in Meath per LEA for the last 3 years (2018, 2019 and 2020) to quantify how many applications were successful, how many were not and to detail reasons for each refusal."

Response

The iPlan system which is the national system used by most local authorities to record planning applications and decisions does not allow for the reporting as requested. The most accurate response the planning authority can give in relation to this question is as follows;



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Total No. of Applications received

2018 - 1594

2019 - 1845

2020 - 2114

Total No. Relating to One off Houses

2018 – 495 – One Off Applications

2019 – 623 - One Off Applications

2020 – 886 - One Off Applications (to week ending 04/12/2020)

In order to get the applications relating to one-off houses, as set out above, a manual calculation had to be undertaken.

Councillor Emer Tóibín sought clarification on the reasoning for refusals, with responses provided by Mr. Larry Whelan, A/Director of Services and the Chief Executive.

Noted by the Elected Members.

10 Notice of Motion

10.1 Submitted by the Fine Gael Councillors (Deferred from December meeting)

"Despite the tremendous efforts of the IT Section in Meath County Council, Councillors are still experiencing persistent and multi-faceted issues with their tablets, that are undermining our ability to perform our role in an effective and professional manner. Hence, Fine Gael Councillors call on the Executive to replace all devices as a matter of priority."

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

The Council's IT Department is currently undertaking a significant project called the forest migration, which essentially involves the migration of the Council's system, including its security, operations, user management and access rights systems that have been built and updated during the last 20 years. The requirement to undertake this massive project has arisen because the service provider is no longer in a position to provide this service to over 17 local authorities.

A key part of the migration is ensuring that there is no security vulnerability in relation to the Council's entire information system. Over 815 users, 57 servers and 36 applications have been migrated over the last 18 months. This migration will eventually enable the Council to fully exploit the use of the Cloud.

Due to this on-going project, we have not yet been able to provide Members with the most secure way to access emails outside of their current tablets. It is recognised that this has caused issues with Members' work processes. However, the IT Department is progressing a number of solutions which should address many of the issues identified to date:

- a) Addressing specific issues raised by councillors and developing responses in terms of re-configuration of tablets/systems; possible training; better trouble-shooting;



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- b) Access to MCC email accounts via Member's phones;
- c) Access to MCC email accounts via other devices.

Tablets were supplied as a light paperless platform, providing access for emails and documents and to fulfil these two purposes but are not, by their nature, strong input devices.

However, it should be noted that changing the tablets for all or some of the Members will not alleviate the issues highlighted by Members to date. It is likely to create additional problems, such as compatibility issues between devices and software versions.

Responding to Issues raised by Members

The IT Department is currently working through many of the issues that Members have highlighted, following recent discussions in the Protocol Committee and a follow-up request by Corporate Services for feedback from Members on the use of their tablets. Seven Members responded to this request.

Meath County Council's IT Department has provided dedicated services to Member's account management, training, support and maintenance. A new TeamViewer app has now been deployed which means the IT helpdesk can provide support without the need for Members to bring their tablets to Buvinda House. It is hoped that this will provide a more responsive support service to Members.

Providing access to emails on Phones

It is expected to have a solution that would allow the Members to have access to MCC email accounts on their phones and that we can deploy quickly, by Q1, 2021.

Providing access to emails on members PCs

Using protocols developed and put in place for remote working during the Covid crisis and additional configuration of our current email server, we are also looking at access to emails for councillors via other platforms (e.g. PCs).

It is hoped that these additional tools will enable councillors to undertake their work in a more efficient and convenient manner.

There were interventions from **Councillors Gerry O'Connor, Sharon Tolan; Gillian Toole and Maria Murphy**, with all recognising the recent progress achieved in addressing some of the issues raised in the motion. The supporting information and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy** was noted.

10.2 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

"Call on Meath County Council to remove the two year waiting time for getting on the housing transfer list for those in exceptional circumstances or where the circumstances of the family have taken a drastic change."



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

The criteria concerning the eligibility for a transfer request is contained within Meath County Council's Allocation Scheme.

The Allocation Scheme is currently subject to review by the Housing, Community & Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee.

Accordingly, it is suggested that the matter be referred to the Committee in the context of this review.

There were interventions from **Councillors Emer Tóibín** and **Paddy Meade**, with Mr Barry Lynch providing clarification on the current Allocation Scheme accommodating transfers in emergency situations. The supporting information and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Emer Tóibín** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** was agreed

On a proposal from Councillor Sharon Tolan and seconded by Councillor Gillian Toole , it was agreed to extend the meeting to 6.15pm.
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10.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“Call on Meath County Council to support an initiative to help reduce fly tipping and costs associated with clean up by ensuring that all restaurants and takeaways with drive through facilities print car registration numbers on all packaging for food and drinks items that are purchased and to call on the Minister for Transport, Environment and Climate Change to roll out the initiative nationwide. Further that if this motion is carried it is shared with all other local authorities”.

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

While the proprietors of restaurants and takeaways with drive-through facilities have obligations in respect of litter and waste management associated with their premises, there is currently no legislative basis that would compel them to partake in such an initiative and participation would have to be on a voluntary basis.

It is submitted that even where such legislation were to be introduced, enforcement would present considerable difficulties, as well as, compliance with GDPR requirements.

Elected Members will be aware of the publication of the National Waste Policy document: “A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy” in September 2020. This policy document provides for a wide series of measures, both to prevent waste arising in the first place and extending the life of waste products. Such products include food waste, plastic and packaging, aluminium cans, etc, and being products that would substantially make up the litter/waste arising from takeaway or drive through facilities.



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Work is now underway at national level on implementation proposals for these measures and it is submitted that this will over time have a positive effect on our countryside and reduce fly tipping which the motion seeks to achieve.

Pending such implementation the Council will continue with the many different environmental initiatives which are outlined in the Chief Executive's Report (agenda item 7.1), in tackling litter and dumping pollution and working closely with businesses, where it is recognised that litter and fly tipping often arises from.

In response to the introduction of the motion by Councillor Tobin, Mr. Larry Whelan, A/Director of Services informed the meeting that there was no legislative basis to implement such an initiative. There was an extensive debate with interventions from **Councillors Alan Tobin; Tom Behan; Elaine McGinty; Sharon Tolan; Pdraig Fitzsimons; Gerry O'Connor, Maria Murphy; Emer Tóibín; Wayne Harding; Joe Fox; Gillian Toole; Aisling O'Neill** and **Damien O'Reilly**. All members agreed with the sentiment of the motion but differed on the practicality and where the burden of responsibility lay. In bringing the matter to a conclusion, An Cathaoirleach reminded members that the proposal was to write a letter to the Minister regarding the matter only. The supporting information and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** was agreed by a show of hands vote with 17 members in agreement and 10 members not in agreement.

<p>On a proposal from Councillor Sharon Tolan and seconded by Councillor Paul McCabe, it was agreed to extend the meeting to 6.30pm.</p>
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10.4 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

"In light of the recent court rulings in relation to illegal dumping and littering cases using CCTV footage as evidence, that Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee to review both the Litter Pollution Act 1997 and the Waste Management Act 1996, to ensure they are fit for purpose in order to address and secure convictions for the current illegal dumping and littering problem that is a scourge on our communities across the county, and indeed the country, using the most up to date and sophisticated detection methods such as CCTV."

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

This matter was the subject of a recent Dáil Question - the response of the Minister is as set out below.

To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment if local authorities have a legal basis to use CCTV under the waste management and-or litter pollution Acts as a tool in combatting the scourge of illegal dumping; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [1978/21] *The use of CCTV and other audio-visual recording (AVR) equipment to assist waste and litter enforcement efforts is primarily an operational matter for local authorities. The Data Protection*



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Commission (DPC) has indicated that it is satisfied that Section 14 of the Waste Management Act 1996 provides a suitable legal basis for the use of such technology in specific circumstances. However, the DPC raised a number of procedural concerns depending on the specific circumstances, the equipment employed and how the equipment is used. As a result, the County and City Management Association (CCMA) has established a Working Group to liaise with the DPC on these concerns and to examine the issues raised.

I have set out a commitment in the Government's Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy, to ensure that all waste enforcement legislation will be "data proofed" so that all available and emerging technologies can be fully utilised in a manner which is General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliant.

My Department will continue to liaise with the local authority sector, including the recently established CCMA Working Group and the DPC, to ensure that the appropriate legislative underpinning is in place to allow for the use of AVR equipment to support enforcement efforts in a manner which is both effective and GDPR compliant.

There were a number of interventions of support for this motion from **Councillors Sharon Tolan; Noel French; Joe Fox; and Alan Tobin**. Mr Larry Whelan responded and indicated that the letter should be addressed to the Minister for the Environment rather than the Minister for Justice. The supporting information and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French** was agreed. It was further agreed that the matter should be addressed to both Ministers.

10.5 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"That Meath County Council writes to TII (Transport Infrastructure Ireland), requesting a full audit of any structural deficits along the M3 Clonee - Kells motorway and all fly-overs, bridges and junctions."

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

The M3 Clonee – North of Kells scheme is a public-private partnership ("PPP") whereby Eurolink delivered a public infrastructure project which is paid for by the State and users over an extended period, in this case until 2052. After this period the asset comes into State ownership. Part of this arrangement requires the PPP company to manage, maintain and rectify defects on the 'Project Road' (essentially the mainline and major junctions and structures) with the remaining 'non-project road' constructed as part of the scheme becoming the responsibility of Meath County Council to maintain. The Council has an ongoing dialogue with the TII and the PPP company in relation to issues that have arisen on the scheme and which are not resolved. We will continue to actively pursue all matters in relation to the condition of the road having regard to the contractual arrangements and responsibilities. Should the Councillors have any specific matters they wish to raise these should be forwarded to the Transportation section for investigation.



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In responding to the introduction of the motion by Councillor O'Reilly, Mr Des Foley, Director of Services, indicated that the Council had regular contact with TII and would bring this matter to their attention. The supporting information and the motion, proposed by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Behan** was agreed.

10.6 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"That Meath County Council, as a historical financier of Dunboyne Mother and Baby Home (Árd Mhuire), allocates funding for a memorial garden in memory of the mothers and babies who were residents of this facility from (1955 -1991) in the Dunboyne Castle / Park area."

Following the Statement by An Cathaoirleach (Item 3), this motion was withdrawn.

10.7 Submitted by Councillor Ronan Moore

"That Meath County Council acknowledges the Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes; and proactively reaches out to survivors and survivor groups to understand how the council can best support their needs as well as acknowledge this dark period in our nation's and county's history, in a sensitive and appropriate manner"

Following the Statement by An Cathaoirleach (Item 3), this motion was withdrawn. In withdrawing the motion, **Councillor Ronan Moore** thanked the Cathaoirleach for his statement and the language used in the statement, emphasised the need to put the statement into action and to collaborate with the survivors groups in doing so. Finally he urged all members to read the Commission of Investigation Report.

10.8 Submitted by Councillor Ronan Moore

"That in the spirit of inclusivity, Meath County Council replaces the prayer at the start of full county council meetings with a period of silent reflection to reflect the greater diversity that now exists within our county."

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Ronan Moore** but was not seconded by another member. However, following an intervention by **Councillor Joe Bonner** later in the meeting, who had wished to second the motion but had lost connectivity at the time, it was agreed to defer this motion to the next meeting.

10.9 Submitted by Councillor Elaine McGinty

"This Council welcomes and supports the recent announcement by the Minister for Defence that an Independent Review Board will be appointed to examine all aspects of the battle of Jadotville involving A Company, 35th Infantry Battalion of the Irish Defence Forces ONUC contingent. Furthermore, we ask that the review board include expert historians, professional military personnel including a senior non-commissioned officer and that the review will examine and report on the psychological effects of the battle on the military personnel involved."



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The motion, proposed by **Councillor Elaine McGinty** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French** was agreed, with interventions of support from **Councillors Noel French; Paddy Meade; and Amanda Smith**.

10.10 Submitted by Councillor Eddie Fennessy

“That Meath County Council stands ready to work with all statutory bodies and with civic society to plan and prepare for the referendum on Irish Unity and for a positive outcome to that referendum and calls on the British Government to agree to set a date for the Irish Unity referendum as provided for in the Good Friday Agreement and calls on the Irish Government to work for this outcome”.

This motion was not considered and therefore deferred until the next meeting.

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 & Enterprise

Noted by the Elected Members.

12 Any Other Business