



Miontuairisci / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 10th March 2021, Via Zoom

An Leas-Mheára, **Councillor Edward Fennessy**, presided.

Councillors Present: Yemi Adenuga, Francis Deane, Padraig Fitzsimons, Tommy Reilly and Emer Tóibín.

Apologies: Councillor Alan Lawes.

Officials in Attendance:

A/Director of Service: Larry Whelan

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 10th February 2021.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20th January 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:



Miontuairisci / Meeting Minutes

- Councillor Alan Lawes on the tragic death of his cousin, Declan Reid, formerly Clondalkin;
- The family of the late Denis Shannon, Johnstown Wood, Navan who had been involved in the local Pride of Place.

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:

- Queried whether there were any works planned for Grange, Bohermeen Road – whilst a crew had been out to undertake repairs, a CIS application was made in 2018 and it is hoped to have this prioritised on the list.
- Queried whether any funding was available for works at the entrance to the apartments on Flower Hill, opposite Fox's – the road off Abbeylands Road is not taken in charge and it was agreed to check with Planning if a bond is in place. Otherwise, an application to take the road in charge would be required.
- Referred to potholes at a number of locations, including the rear entrance to St. Oliver's Cottages and the top of Antylstown Lane – councillors were asked to submit locations, e.g. by Sugar, where pothole repairs were needed and these would be added to the pothole register. It was agreed to check St. Oliver's Cottages as repairs were due to be carried out and Antylstown Lane would be considered for drainage works until the CIS works are undertaken.



Miontuairisci / Meeting Minutes

- Referred to overgrown trees from Blackwater Park into Silverlawns – these are checked every two years and, if necessary, are removed. If branches need to be trimmed, this can be done by the contractor when the hedge cutting season recommences.
- Referred to the damaged fence section which is allowing access to Blackwater Park via Silverlawns – the contractor is due to replace the panels in the coming days.
- Requested that the road sweeper be sent out to Johnstown Wood, where the gullies also need to be cleared – this will be addressed in the coming days.
- Referred to the need for works on the footpath from Clonmagadden Lane to Simonstown, where the surface is uneven following a burst watermain – it was agreed to prioritise this under the 2021/2022 footpath scheme.
- Complimented the council staff on works carried out on the Ramparts.
- Requested a timeline for the provision of ramps in Johnstown – whilst a contractor has been appointed, these are not considered essential works and will be carried out when restrictions are lifted.
- Queried the possibility of putting in double yellow lines on Commons Lane to prevent parking outside the houses – whilst it was agreed to consider double yellow lines if problematic, it was suggested that this be referred to Planning to see what, if any, planning conditions apply.
- Requested clarification on the percentage community contribution required under CIS – this was 10% in 2020.

4.1.2 To receive an update on the amendment of the Taxi Rank Bye-laws for Navan.

Cormac Ross, Resident Engineer, Transportation provided an update on the proposed amendment of the Taxi Rank Bye-laws, revoking those made in 2003.



Miontuairisci / Meeting Minutes

He outlined the proposed amendments, including locations, and confirmed that comments submitted would be considered at the April municipal district meeting, following which the draft bye-laws would be subject to statutory public consultation, in addition to consultation with An Garda Síochána and the NTA.

4.1.3 To receive an update on Clonmaggaden Lane, Navan

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Transportation referred to the proposal made in July 2020 to Navan Municipal District to make this a public road and the subsequent agreement that this was premature until such time as the County Development Plan had been advanced and contributions from road users had been agreed. Since then, the County Development Plan process has moved on and consultation had taken place with road users. It is now proposed to undertake a high level road and footpath design prior to making the road a public road, in order identify the land that would be required to be transferred to the council, to provide for the full width of the proposed road/path development. The funding to undertake the initial repair works, which would secure existing and future employment, would be sourced from an Economic Development capital code. If councillors consent, the council would proceed to agreement with landowners and would revert to the municipal district for approval to make the road a public road.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Sought clarification on the works being proposed – the road is 640ms in length, with the initial section, from the Proudstown Road to near the rear entrance to Simonstown, requiring reconstruction. The remaining section requires pothole repair only.
- Sought clarification if the landowners/companies located on the lane were not making any financial contribution – it was proposed to seek the land which would have a value in excess of the estimated cost of the works.



Miontuairisci / Meeting Minutes

- Queried what repair works could take place whilst waiting for the road to be made public – if the road is not made public, no works will be undertaken.
- Queried the estimated cost of carrying out works – the first approx. 200 metres would cost in the region of €100,000 and this is proposed to come from the Economic Development capital code.

Councillors agreed that land should be sought from landowners and a financial contribution from multi-national companies. It was agreed to see what agreement can be reached and, if such agreement was possible, this would be brought back before the municipal district.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

"To ask the Executive, how many people in Navan are on the HAP scheme and of that total number, how many are in receipt of the discretionary top up to cover the cost of rent in the town?"

Response:

There are currently 874 HAP tenancies in the Navan Municipal District, of which 682 HAP recipients are receiving partial or the full 20% discretionary award in addition to the standard HAP rate.

It is also noted, that 406 HAP recipients who are availing of the discretionary award, are in addition paying a top up payment directly to the landlord.

The response was noted.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"What amount of funding has been allocated for the community facilities in Johnstown?"



Miontuairisci / Meeting Minutes

Response:

Within the Meath County Council Capital Expenditure Programme 2020-2022, €1.45m has been allocated towards community facilities in Johnstown over the 3 year term of the programme.

The response was noted. Councillor Deane sought clarification on how much is allocated each year to the fund.

5.3 Submitted by Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons

“How many CIS schemes have been undertaken in the Navan Municipal District in the last three years and what has been the financial cost to Meath Council?

Similarly, how many CIS schemes have been undertaken in each of the other MDs and what have been the costs involved?”

Response:

5 Community Involvement Schemes have been carried out in Navan MD in the last 3 years. Across the county, 46 were carried out in total. The value of Meath County Council’s contribution to CIS schemes in Navan over the last 3 years was €17,340, with €224,843 contributed in total in that same period. (Please note that the MCC contribution equates to 10% of the overall cost of each scheme undertaken).

While Navan MD accounted for over 10% of schemes completed in the reference period, the monetary contribution by the Council to the Navan MD Schemes was 7.7% of the overall spend from own resources. This is comparative with the percentage length of regional and local non-national roads within the Navan MD area.

For information, the percentage of applications on hand at any one time from Navan MD is less than 10% of the overall schemes on hand for the entire county.



Miontuairisci / Meeting Minutes

	Schemes carried out 2018	MCC Cost (10% of overall cost)	Schemes on Hand Dec 2018	Schemes carried out 2019	MCC Cost (10% of overall cost)	Schemes on Hand Dec 2019	Schemes carried out 2020	MCC Cost (10% of overall cost)	Schemes on Hand Dec 2020	Total over 3 yr period
Navan MD	0	0	5	4	8,905	4	1	8,435	4	17,340
Other MDs	14	71,685	51	12	65,327	51	15	70,491	42	207,503
Totals	14	71,685	56	16	74,232	55	16	78,926	46	224,843

The response was noted.

5.4 Submitted by Councillor Emer Toibin

“To ask Meath County Council if there are plans to repair and improve the path from the Andy Brennan Park under the bridge up to start of the ramparts path now or in the next couple of weeks?”

Response:

Navan Municipal District is aware of the repair/improvement works which are required to the mentioned section of footpath and intend to complete those works as soon as possible in 2021.

The response was noted.

5.5 Submitted by Councillor Yemi Adenuga

“What will it cost Meath County Council to install footpaths (that can also double as cycle lanes) on the old Athboy road, leading up to St. Finians Cemetery, to ensure the safety of pedestrians who walk up to the cemetery from Navan town) and will the Council be able to engage with land owners in the area for their support in any way, to facilitate this?”



Miontuairisci / Meeting Minutes

Response:

As advised at the February meeting, there are no current plans for the installation of a footpath from Mullaghboy to St. Finians Cemetery and therefore no plans to engage with landowners on this matter. A detailed cost estimate is not available for the cost of a shared footpath/cycleway to the cemetery, however, based on historic costs it is anticipated that this could be in excess of €300,000 ex VAT.

The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

"This Council acknowledges that the standing portions of the medieval walls of Navan Town, located in the Urban Council Yard on Abbey Road, have been neglected, largely as a consequence of a lack of an objective in relation to conservation and presentation.

I ask this Council to protect the structure from falling into a state of further disrepair by putting in place a Conservation Plan that will form the basis of an integrated and agreed strategy for the future management and repair of the walls and defences and to develop strategies to raise the image and public awareness of these important monuments.

Further to this, I ask that the conservation plan be guided at all times by the direction set out in the policy document "National Monuments Service Guidelines for Town Medieval Walls".

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

The Town Walls are "monuments" as defined in the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014 and are protected under the provisions of this legislation. All town defences are considered national monuments by reason of the historical, architectural, and archaeological interest attaching to them. The owner/landowner with the section of Town



Miontuairisci / Meeting Minutes

Wall on their property is responsible for the section of wall with regard to the National Monuments Act.

Meath County Council will aim to apply this year to the Irish Walled Town Networks (IWTN), as has been done previously in Kells, (deadline for applications is 31 March 2021), to commission a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Town Walls of Navan. The Heritage Council, through the IWTN, will not grant works for repair or restoration without a proper Conservation Management Plan. Meath County Council will also have to contribute in the region of 20% to the grant funding if successful and this is subject to resources being available.

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

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

"In the interest of providing safe vehicular access and exit to the Navan Retail Park, that Meath County Council agrees to carry out a traffic safety assessment with a view to installing traffic lights or other such safety measures that may be deemed necessary."

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

The Transportation Section does not have a traffic safety assessment at this location in the current work programme and would not have the resources to progress such a study at this time. This could be considered again at a later date.

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

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"I propose that Meath County Council incorporate Spicers property (a protected building, bought as part of the regeneration plan) adjacent to the Ramparts in the upcoming tendering process. The Old Spicers Bakery on the Athlumney Road would have great



Miontuairisci / Meeting Minutes

potential if used as tea rooms, tourist office and museum. In my opinion the tourism potential of such a facility would greatly enhance the Boyne Greenway and Navigation Restoration Scheme.”

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

Meath County Council is currently considering the development potential of the Urban Regeneration sites and this will then be included in the Expression of Interest to be advertised. The request in this Notice of Motion will be included in the consideration of the development potential.

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

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“With a view to promoting better mental and physical health for the residents of Navan, and bearing in mind Covid 19 restrictions, I call on Meath County Council to extend the outdoor exercise area of Blackwater Park (our county park) by adding on a Calisthenics Outdoor Gym. Calisthenics is a growing trend. This form of workout is intended to increase strength, fitness and flexibility through different exercises with minimal equipment.”

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

Calisthenics are sets of exercises which are performed rhythmically and require minimal equipment. Examples of type of exercise which are incorporated in the calisthenic movement are push-ups, squats, planks, jumping exercises etc. Participants utilise their own body weight to develop strength, endurance, flexibility & coordination.

In order to gauge the interest in Calisthenics, Meath LSP will be asked to trial some Calisthenics programmes once restrictions allow. Based on this, an assessment can be made as to what facilities, if any, are required and how they could potentially be funded.



Miontuairisci / Meeting Minutes

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

6.5 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

“That Navan Municipal Council name the new road being built from the intersection of the R153 Navan Kentstown Road and Metges Road to Farganstown, Bóthar Hodgett in memory of Thomas Hodgett.”

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

If this motion is adopted it would be referred to the Council’s Civic Commemorations Committee for consideration, taking into account the provisions of the Council’s Civic Commemorations Protocol. The recommendation of the Civic Commemorations Committee would be considered by the Protocol Committee, who in turn would make a recommendation to the full Council.

Councillors requested that the Civic Commemorations Committee consult with the local historical society as part of the consideration process.

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

6.6 Submitted by Councillor Yemi Adenuga

“I call on Meath County Council, as part of support for local businesses in the town centre, to provide a number of parklets, to be placed at suitable locations in the town centre, to help drive local engagement and support for local businesses in the Navan town centre as we prepare for summer.”

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



Miontuairisci / Meeting Minutes

The provision of parklets was considered during 2020, however it was decided not to proceed as each parklet could remove approx. 2-3 car parking spaces on the street.

It was pointed out that, if such a proposal were to be made by businesses following collective agreement, this could be brought back to the municipal district for approval.

A short discussion followed, with reference to the difficulty in obtaining such agreement by all businesses and the need to first provide more information on the proposal for businesses to consider, including whether such parklets would be permanent or temporary, their location and the numbers of parking spaces that would be affected.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**, was noted.

6.7 Submitted by Councillor Yemi Adenuga

“I call on Meath County to accelerate the delivery of two key cycle routes connecting the Johnstown area and Blackwater Park with the town centre.”

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

Meath County Council Transportation Department is currently preparing tender documents for the appointment of Consultants to undertake design services for the National Transport Authority (NTA) funded projects identified in the Notice of Motion. However, it is noted that progression of the respective procurement and appointment processes, and subsequent management of these projects, will be dependent on the allocation of additional staff resources by the Council. The matter of additional resources, and related appointments, is currently under review by the Council following the recent confirmation from the Department of Transport confirming a commitment of funding for additional staff resources, to be provided through the NTA’s sustainable mobility investment programme.

It was pointed out that, in addition to securing additional staffing resources, the timeline for the delivery of the project would also be affected by the planning process, some aspects of the route being potentially contentious. In response to a query regarding the



Miontuairisci / Meeting Minutes

provision of temporary measures, such as bollards from Johnstown to Circular Road along the R147, it was pointed out that this would require a safe termination point in advance of the junction and the associated road safety audit would require any design deficiencies to be addressed.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga** and seconded by **Councillor Emer Tóibín**, was agreed.

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

- 7.1 To note the report from the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC meeting of 17th February 2021.

The report was noted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons raised the following issue:

- 9.1.1 Requested further information on the process of making applications for Heritage Town funding.

- 9.2 Councillor Emer Tóibín raised the following issue:

- 9.2.1 Queried whether a bandstand could be provided in Blackwater Park – it was pointed out that this the subject of a Notice of Motion for the April meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.



Miontuairisci / Meeting Minutes

Signed:

An Meára