



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Trim Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

2:00p.m., 15th April 2016, Trim Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Noel French**, presided.

Councillors Present: Enda Flynn, Joe Fox, Trevor Golden, Caroline Lynch, Ronan McKenna.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Des Foley

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Maura Daly

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Apologies: Maurice Kelly, Senior Executive Engineer.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 18th March, 2016.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18th March 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

2.1 Councillor Caroline Lynch raised the following issues:

2.1.1 Thanked the Housing Department for organising the recent information seminar on the HAP scheme for landlords but noted the disappointing attendance by landlords from Trim Municipal District.

2.1.2 Requested an update on the second water levels inspection in the graveyard in Kilbride, that was requested by Councillors at the March meeting and amend

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the minute of the March meeting to reflect this request – it was agreed to refer this to the Environment Section.

- 2.2 Councillor Ronan McKenna expressed his disappointment at the response circulated in relation to the provision of litter bins on the Enfield Ring Road and the need to develop this route as a facility – it was agreed to continue to review this situation but the resources needed to regularly empty bins was underlined.
- 2.3 Councillor Enda Flynn requested an update on traffic management issues on the Johnstown Road – it was pointed out that the speed limit review was ongoing and that a countywide policy on appropriate safety measures would be developed and applied, as appropriate.
- 2.4 Councillor Noel French raised the following issues:
 - 2.4.1 Update on the allocation of €140,000 for footpaths – it was confirmed that a list was being compiled based on proposals submitted.
 - 2.4.2 The possibility of allocating workers, recently trained in stonework, to graveyards and old bridges – it was agreed to check this.
 - 2.4.3 Update on the proposals submitted by Prosper Meath – it was confirmed that these would be incorporated into the footpath works planned.
 - 2.4.4 The timeframe for restoration following works being carried out by Virgin, UPC, etc. – it was confirmed that full restoration would follow the temporary restoration within 6 months of the works being completed with a further snag period of 2-3 years.
 - 2.4.5 The need for a footpath and/or pedestrian crossing on the Dublin Road in Trim.
 - 2.4.6 Requested that a note of thanks be issued to the Gardaí for carrying out speed checks on the Dublin Road.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:



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- Meath County Library Service, especially Ciarán Mangan, and Solstice on the 1916 Exhibition running until 4th June.
- Gluais, Trim, who have been selected to represent Ireland in Disneyland, Paris on St. Patrick' Day, 2017.
- Enfield Tidy Towns on the opening of the new centenary garden this weekend.
- The Chief Executive, the Director of Services for Economic Development and Enterprise and his staff in Meath County Council and the IDA in securing additional jobs arising from the announcement that Shire is to build a new plant in Meath.

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Gareth Higgins, Mornington Heights, Trim.
- Eddie Downey, former President of the IFA, on the death of his mother, Josephine.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

- 4.1.1 To receive an update on works completed/ planned within Trim Municipal District.

The report had been circulated in advance and matters raised by Councillors included:

- Concerns regarding anti-social behaviour in the playground in Enfield – it was confirmed that the executive was aware of the issues and had discussed concerns with local residents with a view to identifying measures to tackle the issues.
- The need to synchronise the lights at the school in Kilbride.



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- The need to issue a letter to residents in Sarsfield Avenue to explain the parking restriction signs and bye-laws.
- The need to review the issue of road markings on the Trim Road, Kilbride – it was agreed to check the width of the road to see what could be done.
- The tree between two houses in Manorlands – it was pointed out that the tree was on private property but that the report on trees would be checked.
- The possibility of including a new footpath from Kilbride school to the church on the programme for footpaths – it was pointed out that the additional allocation this year was intended for improvement rather than capital works.
- The continued flooding at Jordanstown church – it was confirmed that a ditch cleaning notice is to be served to landowners on both sides of the road.
- The removal of bollards between St. Patrick's Park and Emmet Street – it was agreed to check this.
- The need for footpath works in Avondale and St. Patrick's Park.
- The erection of no dumping and no parking signs in Eldergrove – it was confirmed that no dumping signs could be erected but parking restrictions were not enforceable.
- Complaints regarding the condition of the public toilets – it was confirmed that further consideration was needed of this issue as the facility was in need of an upgrade and ongoing resources to maintain it.
- Complimented the amount of works being undertaken during a very busy period of the year.

4.2 Corporate Services

- 4.2.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Trim Municipal District.



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The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

“What road, footpath and other works were completed in St. Oliver's Park Ballivor in 2015 and what works are planned for 2016?”

Response:

In 2015, Trim Municipal District carried out some maintenance works on the surface water pipe work in St Oliver's Park by jetting the network in order to remove silt, debris, etc. In 2016, it is proposed to carry out repair works to the road surface on the small laneway in the estate as part of the Schedule of Municipal District Works.

The response was noted. In response to Councillor French's request for clarification, it was confirmed that discussions would take place with residents whose gardens were backing onto the lane prior to resurfacing works being carried out.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Ronan McKenna

“That Trim Municipal District Councillors instruct Meath County Council to sell the 5 acres of land zoned residential on the ring road at Maudlins, opposite the fire station, on the open market by tender or auction and that the proceeds of the sale be used to help provide a Theatre for Trim.”

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

The potential use of this land is currently being considered by Meath County Council and when complete, Corporate Services will report to the Trim Municipal District on the outcome of this review.

The motion was deferred at Councillor McKenna's request.



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6.2 Submitted by Councillor Enda Flynn

“In light of the evidence of the Enfield Community to develop a Healthy Lifestyle by developing walking routes and the increased numbers using the bypass to walk and run, I call on Meath County Council to support these efforts and improve the safety for pedestrians by extending the footpath to the west of the village to link the street footpath with the footpath on the bypass.”

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

This project will involve construction of approx 300m of footpath with drainage facilities, etc. Meath County Council will include this in our application to the NTA for funding for 2017.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Enda Flynn** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna**.

The motion was adopted.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

“As a means of identifying areas of possible economic development, environmental improvement and community enhancement, Meath County Council will collate a list of the derelict sites in the Trim Municipal District and who is responsible for them.”

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

For individual properties that were intact and falling into disrepair, the Derelict Sites Act 1990 provides the statutory basis to Local Authorities to prevent such sites being or becoming a derelict site and to ensure that owners rectify the site in question. In all cases, as a first step, the Council seeks to engage with the owners and, in many cases, this results in a desired outcome without the need to go through the formal process prescribed in the Act.

The difficulties associated with cases where such desired outcomes are not being achieved have been highlighted in previous presentations to the Council and SPCs,



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including the lack of funding for property owners to take measures to ensure properties are made non-derelict, properties in NAMA or Liquidation, registered owners not traceable, etc. However, notwithstanding such difficulties, the Environment Department, who administer the Derelict Sites provisions, are endeavouring to have each case dealt with as expeditiously as possible and within the resources available to the Department for such work.

The Derelict Sites database where all cases are entered, pending investigation and subsequent action, includes different properties located within the Trim Municipal District and, subject to the necessary resources being available, it is proposed to carry out investigations of other properties in the District which may fall under the definition of the Derelict Sites Legislation and as requested in this motion.

The Members may be aware of the provisions of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 which introduces in time a vacant sites levy which will be included in the County Development Plan and, specifically, the inclusion of the zoning of lands that are in need of regeneration. It is submitted that this legislation will complement the powers provided for in the Derelict Sites Legislation and including the collation of lists of properties which may fall under either heading.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Enda Flynn**.

Councillor Caroline Lynch enquired as to whether the information referred to in the supporting information was available to Councillors and requested that the investigations be carried out as quickly as possible. Councillor Ronan McKenna also pointed out that information on vacant sites is available from the Land Registry on landdirect.ie for a small charge.

The motion was adopted.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

“That Trim Municipal District requests that appropriate signage is erected as a matter of urgency at various points in the town to guide people to the site of the new 1916 commemorative garden so that it becomes an integral part of the tourist trail in the town before the summer season.”



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

A 1916 Garden of Remembrance was installed in each of the Municipal Districts, with a specific allocation assigned for the installation of these gardens. This allocation has now been used up on the purchase and installation costs and, as none of this allocated budget remains, it is not proposed to erect signage associated specifically with these gardens. Generally, the provision of signage for parks/gardens would require further consideration in the wider context of existing signage and would require external funding sources.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Enda Flynn**.

Councillor Caroline Lynch expressed the view that, given the investment made in the garden, it was disappointing that people unfamiliar with the area would not be able to locate and visit it and that the job should be completely finished through the erection of signage, even if it was only one sign at the entrance past the bridge. It was agreed to review this.

The motion was adopted.

7 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Councillor Caroline Lynch raised the following issue:

8.1.1 Concerns at the 50% reduction in the time allocated to Trim Municipal District by the Enhancement Crew, now being shared with Ratoath Municipal District and the pressure on existing operational staff. A short discussion followed, where Councillors expressed their concerns at the loss of staff and the need to undertake works in other towns and villages within Trim Municipal District. – It was confirmed that this approach demonstrated a greater flexibility in terms of sharing skills and best practice across boundaries, was to be undertaken on a



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trial basis with the Enhancement Crew still available to work in Trim Municipal District and applied only to staff working on projects of a landscaping nature. It was agreed that more information would be provided to Councillors on this.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach