



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Trim Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

1:30 pm, 15th May 2015, Trim Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Joe Fox**, presided.

Councillors Present: Enda Flynn, Noel French, Trevor Golden, Caroline Lynch, Ronan McKenna.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Des Foley

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Executive Engineer: Maurice Kelly

Executive Engineer: Maura Daly

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 17th April 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17th April 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Ronan McKenna** and seconded by **Councillor Caroline Lynch**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Caroline Lynch requested an update on the report for Ballivor – Maura Daly confirmed that, following a meeting with the design engineer and the Road Safety Officer, the designs were being prepared.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:



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- Scoil Mhuire on their win in the Meath Library Service Post Primary Schools Debate Competition;
- Trim Drama Group on their successful production, 'The Odd Couple', which was moving to Solstice Arts Centre.

4 To receive a presentation on Braveheart 20.

Eric Lawlor attended the meeting and delivered a verbal presentation on the events planned for 1st August to mark the 20th anniversary of the filming of 'Braveheart' in Trim, the interest from countries such as the UK and the US, the benefits for Trim, the costs associated with organising the event and the benefitting charities. The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Mr. Lawlor for his presentation, welcomed the event and committed their support to the committee. It was agreed that Meath County Council would support the event and the committee was encouraged to submit an application under the community grants scheme.

5 Trim Castle - Opening.

John McMahon, Commissioner, OPW attended the meeting to hear the views of Councillors in respect of the opening hours of Trim Castle. Councillors outlined their support for all year round opening of the castle, underlined the importance of the castle to the economic benefit of the town and county, and highlighted comments on social media relating to the castle being closed in March. Mr. McMahon outlined the constraints that exist in relation to extending the opening hours beyond the current arrangements, where Trim Castle is closed from Monday to Friday during the off-peak season. Mr. McMahon agreed to consider extending the opening of the castle to include March on a trial basis during the next off-peak season and to consider its continuation based on footfall during the trial period. He agreed to provide an update to Councillors following this trial period. He also welcomed any further suggestions in relation to developing partnerships with local schools and community groups.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Mr. McMahon for attending and welcomed the positive outcome of the discussion.

6 Statutory Business



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6.1 Community

- 6.1.1 To receive a presentation on the Meath Age Friendly Initiative.

Áine Bird, Community Department, Meath County Council, attended the meeting and delivered a presentation to the meeting. The presentation included information on the background to the initiative, membership, the strategy and its review, information on the Age Friendly Business Town initiative and the next steps planned.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Áine for attending and for the presentation. It was pointed out that the issues raised fed into all other plans and strategies for the county.

6.2 Transportation

- 6.2.1 To receive a report on Clonard pedestrian crossing.

Duncan Byrne, Executive Engineer, attended the meeting and delivered a verbal report to the meeting. He confirmed that Eurolink was funding the crossing but had sought the assistance of Meath County Council in finalising the location. He outlined the two locations being considered for the crossing, i.e. at the school and at the village centre near the church. He confirmed that the village centre was the recommended location based on pedestrian movement but that local views differed on this. He also affirmed that, were the crossing to be located at the village centre, improved traffic calming measures would be installed at the school. He underlined that, whilst it would be preferred to reach a local consensus on the location, a decision was needed as soon as possible to ensure that the funding would be made available. Councillors agreed to consult with locals on this and review this at the next meeting.

- 6.2.2 To receive an update on works completed and planned within Trim Municipal District.

A report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:



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- The availability of a rota for the street sweeping in villages – it was confirmed that no rota could be provided as the service was provided based on funding, events planned, etc. Councillors were requested to submit information on any events within the Municipal District to the District Engineer so these areas could be included.
- The footpaths in Kildalkey – it was confirmed that these were on the list submitted to the NTA for possible funding.
- Tree maintenance – Councillors were requested to submit information on any trees requiring maintenance, including pruning, felling, etc. and that these would be assessed for attention.
- The need for the cobble lock on Emmet Street and Market Street to be properly restored by Irish Water following works – it was confirmed that this had been highlighted to Irish Water.

7 Notice of Question

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Enda Flynn

“What are the procedures for erecting signs to highlight the presence of the Text Alert system in the Enfield area and to what degree is the council able to support this important work?”

Response:

This policy relates to community alert signage. In order to apply for signage, a Community Alert Group must be set up and running in partnership with An Garda Síochána and Muintir na Tíre.

The policy relates to signage on Regional and Local roads only. Applications involving signs on National roads should be dealt with in accordance with relevant current policies published by the National Roads Authority.

Applications must be made to the relevant municipal district office on the form provided. The application shall describe in sufficient detail the total number of signs and the



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location of each of the proposed signs. The applicant shall, if required, provide a location map to the specified scale in respect of each proposed sign.

Normal considerations in relation to safety at junctions and roundabouts apply and the Council will suggest alternative locations where it considers that to allow a sign would cause or potentially cause or exacerbate a danger to traffic or pedestrian safety.

The Council will not agree to locate a sign where it considers that to allow a sign would contribute to an unacceptable proliferation of signs at any location or where allowing an additional sign would obscure or partly obscure or detract from existing regulatory road signage.

Signs and poles must comply with all relevant standards. Signs shall be approximately 600mm wide by 400mm high, and shall contain blue text "Community Alert Area" on a white reflective background. Poles shall be 76mm diameter galvanized steel. Signs (and poles where required) must be provided by the applicant at their own expense. Signs and poles, where permitted, must be erected by or under the direct supervision of the Council.

The response was noted.

8 Notice of Motion

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

"That Meath County Council carries out a full investigation into the financial management of the St. Patrick's Day festival in Trim for the last 3 years in light of local and national media reports of financial irregularities."

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

The St. Patrick's Day festival in Trim is run by a local committee who have no direct link to Meath County Council. Therefore I am not aware of any legal basis that would authorise Meath County Council to investigate the committee or its affairs.



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The media reports referred to in the motion related to alleged irregularities with a claim for payment of a Gathering grant in 2013. A report on that matter has been submitted to the Council's Audit Committee. Evidence that the payments have now been made has been submitted and the Council regards the matter as closed.

Separately, and unrelated to the recent reports, the Council has now centralised the grant application system into the Community Department and revised procedures are now being put in place for the application and draw down of grants. This was done in the context of the abolition of the Town Councils, in order to streamline and centralise the application process, to provide consistency and to give clear guidance to applicants on what must be submitted in order to draw down an approved grant.

It will be an essential part of any system that the level of proof and documentation to support drawdown of funds is proportionate to the level of grant being offered, while at the same time being sufficiently robust to protect public funds and ensure accountability.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna**.

Des Foley advised the meeting that since the preparation of the response, the matter had been considered at a meeting of the Audit Committee held on 5th May, 2015, which he had attended. It was noted that the alleged irregularities referred to in media reports had been fully reviewed by the Council and the Audit Committee were advised that evidence was now available confirming that payments, the subject of the alleged irregularities, had been made. The Audit Committee therefore considered the matter to be closed. He further advised the meeting that the above review had extended over a number of years and no other irregularities had been highlighted.

The Councillors noted the position and the motion was then withdrawn.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

"That a broadband implementation plan, similar to Louth County Council, be prepared so that all the areas of the Trim Municipal District will be covered by broadband by 2020 or sooner."



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

The Council will review the Louth implementation plan. However this matter may more appropriately fit into the Council's economic strategy actions and it is noted that consultations are planned with broadband providers under the auspices of the Planning Economic Development and Enterprise SPC.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna**.

The motion was noted.

9 Correspondence

9.1 Correspondence received from OPW in regard to all year round opening of Trim Castle.

The correspondence was noted.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Councillor Enda Flynn raised the following issues:

10.1.1 The timescale for the traffic light survey in Enfield – it was confirmed that this would take place within 10 working days.

10.1.2 The work needed on the roundabout off the M4 motorway.

10.2 Councillor Trevor Golden raised the following issue:

10.2.1 Congratulated Councillor Noel French on the Wellington celebrations and acknowledged the lighting at the monument.

10.3 Councillor Caroline Lynch raised the following issues:

10.3.1 The road safety concerns at Kilbride school and church and the need for road



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repairs at this location.

10.3.2 The need for traffic calming signs at Lackanash Estate.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach