



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Trim Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

2:30p.m., 19th June 2015, 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

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 15th May 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15th May 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Enda Flynn** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Enda Flynn requested an update on the traffic survey in Enfield – it was confirmed that the survey should be complete within the next two weeks.

Councillor Enda Flynn asked that the roundabout off the M4 be cleared of weeds – it was pointed out that any works undertaken would be subject to staff availability.

Councillor Caroline Lynch requested an update on the road safety report for Ballivor – it was confirmed that this matter was being dealt with centrally, that a design was being finalised to



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include lighting upgrade and that, whilst the report did refer to a footpath on the side opposite the school, this did not form part of the current scheme planned.

3 Expression of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The families of the students killed and injured in Berkeley, USA.
- Frank O'Brien, former County Manager, on the death of his wife Dr. Eilish O'Brien.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Clonard Community on the events organised to celebrate the founding of the monastery.
- Trim Musical Society on winning Best Musical Society at the recent Association of Irish Musical Societies Awards.
- Trim Athletic Club on the Braveheart 5K run, held last week, the awards recently received and members, Andrew Reilly and Peter Millen, on their recent achievements, including the completion of the Dolomite Ultra Marathon 53k in under 3 hours.
- Those involved in the recent launch of the ALMC Motor Club Stages Rally.
- Local Superintendent Mary Gormley on her retirement.

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

5 To receive a presentation from the FAI Development Officer.

Mark Scanlon attended the meeting and delivered a presentation to Councillors on participation rates, programmes and partnership initiatives.



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Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- The possibility of a League of Ireland team in Meath – it was confirmed that resources were required but that the success of the U17s, U19s and women’s teams could lead to the establishment of a senior team;
- The credits available for Transition Year students to gain the An Gaisce award – this was confirmed, for example through coaching in primary schools and clubs;
- The development of a programme for health, fitness and advantages of participation in sport – this programme would be developed as part of the new role;
- The need for continued support from Meath County Council for these initiatives.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Mark for attending and for his presentation and wished him well in his new role.

6 Statutory Business

6.1 Corporate Services

- 6.1.1 To receive a presentation on the preparation of a Draft Polling Scheme for County Meath.

Olive Falsey and Sheila Sheridan attended the meeting and delivered a presentation to the meeting that covered the current polling scheme, the purpose of the review, the format and the process, and issues specific to Trim Municipal District. It was pointed out that a revised draft would be presented to municipal district meetings in September for approval, following which it would go before the full Council for adoption. If adopted, the new Polling Scheme will take effect from 15th February 2016.

Councillors were asked to submit any suggestions to Corporate Services by 4.00pm on Friday 31st July 2015.



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A query was raised as to the manner in which buildings are selected as Polling Stations and whether this was done by agreement – it was agreed to check this with the Returning Officer.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Olive and Sheila for attending and for their presentation.

6.1.2 To receive a report on Entente Florale Preparations.

Fiona Skehan delivered a presentation to the meeting on the work undertaken to date and the itinerary for the judging, which takes place on 16th and 17th July, with the awards ceremony taking place in Bristol on 18th September.

Councillors acknowledged the work undertaken, the benefits for the town and county, and urged all businesses and residents to become involved.

6.2 Transportation

6.2.1 To receive an update on the establishment of the Transportation Operations Section.

John McGrath, Transportation Operations attended the meeting and provided Councillors with an update on the establishment of the Transportation Operations Section, including the context for the reform programme and the municipal district structures with a focus on operations and customer service. It was confirmed that one contact number and email address for the organisation will be used and that each department has a customer service representative to follow up on queries received.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- Welcomed the new approach to customer services, particularly the use of reference numbers, the tracking of contacts received and the provision of reports to the council on the number of queries received and resolved.
- The benefit of Councillors having a practical demonstration on how the customer service system works.



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- The need to ensure a quick response for Councillors without the need for them to follow up on queries logged.
- The need to let Councillors know if a department is closed for any reason.
- The possibility of Councillors having access to the Sugar system to check the status of issues raised.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked John for attending and for the update.

6.2.2 To agree a location for Pedestrian Crossing in Clonard.

Councillors confirmed that their consultation with the local community indicated a preference for the pedestrian crossing to be located at the church, with further traffic calming measures to be implemented at the school, as outlined at the May Trim Municipal District meeting. However it was noted that the school would prefer the school location due to the absence of a marked crossing at that location. A short discussion followed on the possibility of marking a crossing at the school, installing flashing yellow lights, installing bollards to prevent parking at certain locations, the provision of a dedicated cycle lane and the need for enforcement to address speeding through the village. It was agreed to consider the issues raised and ask the Gardaí to look at the enforcement issues.

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

The report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Matters raised by the Councillors included:

- Creroge – it was confirmed that the contract had been awarded and works would commence next week.



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- Eamon Duggan Estate - it was confirmed that upgrading works would be undertaken.
- St. Oliver's Park - it was confirmed that works would be undertaken.
- Rathmolyon junction – it was confirmed that the design had been done, would be tendered next week and that the design would be circulated to Councillors.
- Welcomed the works from Kilbride to Rathcairn.
- Issues in Glenidan Estate, Enfield including a damaged house and potholes whilst waiting for the estate to be taken in charge – it was agreed to check the status of the taking in charge.

The commencement of the roadworks programme – it was confirmed that works would commence as soon as possible, that surface dressing would be prioritised and that it should be completed by the end of the summer.

- That landowners should be encouraged to cut grass on roadsides.

7 Notice of Question

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

“Can the executive provide the full report/review of investigation into funding provided to the Trim St Patrick's Day Festival, to include :

- The total funding provided for 2013 to 2015;
- The criteria for granting of the funding;
- Guidelines and advice for applicants on making returns;
- Details of returns made for 2013, 2014 and 2015?”



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Response:

The St. Patrick's Day festival in Trim is run by a local committee who have no direct link to Meath County Council.

In regard to funding provided for 2013 – 2015 the breakdown is as follows:

2013 –€ 4,000

2014 –€ 4,000,

2015 – €4,000 (€2,000 paid to date)

2013

2013 was the year of 'The Gathering' in Ireland and Meath County Council operated a 'Gathering Events' fund for local community events. St. Patrick's Celtic Festival Committee, Trim, applied for funding in respect of the annual St. Patrick's Day parade and a new once off Gathering event, The Celtic Concert, at Trim Castle. The application estimated the overall cost of the Celtic Festival at approximately €22,000.

The application was assessed and a grant offer of €8,000 or 50% of the verified costs (whichever was the lesser) issued to the applicants. It was a condition of the letter of offer that a first instalment of €4,000 would be paid in advance, with any remaining balance paid after the event. Receipts were required in order to verify any payment made. €4,000 was paid to the committee. The Committee confirmed that the costs of the concert had been less than estimated in the original application and that they would not be seeking to draw down the remaining balance of the grant. No further payments were made.

Receipts were subsequently submitted by the Committee in order to complete the claim for the €4,000 paid in advance.

2014



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In 2014, the St. Patrick's Day Festival Committee applied for funding and was granted €4,000. Receipts were subsequently submitted by the Committee in order to complete their claim.

2015

In 2015, the St. Patrick's Day Festival Committee again applied for funding and was granted €4,000. €2,000 was paid in advance with the balance to be paid on the submission of receipts. The Council is awaiting the submission of receipts and the remaining balance of €2,000 has not yet been paid.

Further Information

Grants for festivals were provided to Communities by the former Town Councils and, in some cases, an advance payment was made to the organising committee, with the remainder paid on the submission of receipts to the Council. It was decided, following the abolition of the Town Councils to continue with the same procedure for 2014 and 2015 so that the organising committees would be in a position to progress with preparations regarding their festivals.

The Council has now centralised the grant application system into the Community Department and revised procedures are now in place for the application and draw down of grants. This was done, 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. Successful applicants must return a receipts and payments account when the project / initiative is completed.

Following the matter being raised in the media, it was the subject of discussion at a recent meeting of the Council's Audit Committee. Having reviewed the matter, the Audit Committee welcomed the new procedures for the administration of grants and deemed the matter to be closed.



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It is noted that this matter was the subject of a Notice of Motion at the May meeting of Trim Municipal District. A full report was provided on the matter and the Notice of Motion was then withdrawn. On the basis of the above information the Council now regards the matter as closed.

The response was noted.

8 Notice of Motion

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Enda Flynn

“That the location of suitable sites for playgrounds of a reasonable size in the villages of Longwood, Ballivor and Kildalkey be identified.”

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

The Community Department will explore the provision of a playground facilities in Longwood, Ballivor and Kildalkey, cognisant of demand for, and potential use of such facilities, and funding streams.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Enda Flynn** and seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden**.

It was suggested that a workshop be organised and groups in Trim, Kells and Enfield be invited to share their experiences of developing the playgrounds.

The motion was adopted.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Enda Flynn

“That Trim Municipal District states its opposition to Maigne Windfarm, and in particular to the construction of two turbines in County Meath, calls for the publication of the new windfarm planning guidelines, and calls for the suspension of all windfarm planning applications until such time as they can be assessed in the context of the new windfarm planning guidelines.”



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The motion was proposed by **Councillor Enda Flynn** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.

A short discussion followed, where it was pointed out that no public meeting had taken place in Meath despite plans for two turbines in the county, adjacent to the canal and close to the site of a new school. It was agreed that a letter would be submitted to the Minister of the Environment, Community & Local Government, copied to An Taoiseach, seeking the publication of the relevant guidelines as a matter of urgency.

The motion was adopted.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

“That Trim Municipal District receives a quarterly report on the progress of the Economic Development Strategy.”

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

It is intended to use the statutory Chief Executives report to update the full Council on a monthly basis. The Planning & Enterprise SPC will also receive updates at every meeting of that committee.

These updates will be shared with all Municipal District Committees and in addition any matter arising that is specific to a particular MD will be notified to the relevant MD members as they arise.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Enda Flynn**.

A short discussion followed on the role of the local authority in creating an environment conducive to job creation, the reporting mechanism already in place at county level and the role of the SPCs. It was agreed that the appropriate format for reporting on the economic development strategy should be referred for discussion to the Corporate Policy Group.

The motion was noted.



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8.4 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

“That Meath County Council further support the development of the excellent community library in Ballivor through Meath Library Service by funding the library with the sum of €10,000 per annum, with this sum to be reviewed on a yearly basis until such time as the new library opens in Ballivor.”

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

There is no provision in the 2015 Library service estimates to allow for such expenditure, however the library service will continue to offer any practical assistance it can to the project.

Should funds be forthcoming from any other local authority source, the library service will be happy to advise and direct the community group in the expenditure of such funds.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**.

A short discussion followed, with a number of options outlined including the allocation of funds through the MD Members Discretionary Fund, the inclusion in the 2016 capital programme and the sale of St. Kinneth’s Church. It was agreed to raise this at the Housing and Community SPC.

The motion was noted.

9 Correspondence

- 9.1 Correspondence received from Meath River Rescue Service in response to the letter of sympathy from Trim Municipal District Members.

The correspondence was noted.

- 9.2 Correspondence received from Mr. John McMahon, Commissioner, OPW in relation to Item 5 – May monthly meeting.



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The correspondence was noted.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Councillor Ronan McKenna raised the following issues:

10.1.1 The need to progress the provision of a permanent facility for the county's musical societies and drama groups and to liaise with the groups as part of this – Councillor McKenna agreed to liaise with groups in terms of their needs and it was agreed to bring a report to the September meeting.

10.1.2 The need to review the progress in Cherry Valley, Rathmolyon including checking if the attenuation pond was in compliance with planning permission – it was agreed to refer this to Planning.

10.1.3 The inclusion of Newtown Bridge and Dublin Road in resurfacing works – this was confirmed.

10.2 Councillor Joe Fox raised the following issue:

10.2.1 The need to review and replace road markings at junctions in rural locations, for example Rathkeenan Cross – it was agreed that schools and T-junctions would be prioritised and other locations would be reviewed.

10.3 Councillor Enda Flynn raised the following issues:

10.3.1 The need to clear the road edges and weeds on the side of the Enfield bypass prior to the Tidy Towns adjudication.

10.3.2 The absence of a road number in Newcastle on the west end of Enfield.

10.3.3 The need for clearing the area at the rear of Longwood village.

10.3.4 Responsibility for clearing building material from estates.

10.4 Councillor Trevor Golden raised the following issue:



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10.4.1 The balance of funds not drawn down by community groups for festivals and events – it was confirmed that funds must be drawn down within the year.

10.5 Councillor Caroline Lynch raised the following issue:

10.5.1 The quality of the new lights in Mornington Heights and whether additional lights can be installed – it was agreed to refer this to the Public Lighting Unit.

10.6 Councillor Noel French raised the following issues:

10.6.1 The need to protect the Horse Bridge in the Porchfields – it was confirmed that funding was being sought.

10.6.2 The broken pailing on the roundabout on the Summerhill Road – it was agreed to check this.

10.6.3 The path to the Summerhill Road – it was pointed out that a plan had been developed.

10.6.4 The impact on local business as a result of the sudden closure of Cleary's.

10.6.5 The need for the JPC to be established to raise issues such as vandalism.

10.6.6 Welcomed the Community Energy Initiative grants to Trim Courthouse and Trim Library, the smart garden in Blackfriary and the planning application lodged by Aldi.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach