



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

### *Trim Municipal District*

#### *Ordinary Meeting*

*2:00pm, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014, Trim Civic Offices*

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

**Councillors Present:** Noel French, Caroline Lynch, Ronan McKenna.

**Apologies:** Councillors Enda Flynn, Trevor Golden.

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Des Foley

**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King

**Administrative Officer:** Fiona Skehan

**Senior Executive Engineer:** Vincent Collins

**Assistant Staff Officer:** Rose McManus

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

- 1.1** Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2014.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2014 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Ronan McKenna** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**.

#### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

Councillor Caroline Lynch referred to the presentation of the Road Safety Officer and the commitment given to provide reports and recommendations to community groups. It was confirmed that the Road Safety Officer had been contacted in relation to same.

Councillor Noel French sought an update on the Leper Stream. Vincent Collins confirmed that the weather had prevented any further investigation and that the matter would be looked at again in the Spring.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

Councillor Noel French requested a copy of the submission made by Meath County Council in respect of speed limits in estates. It was agreed that this would be circulated to all Councillors.

Councillor Ronan McKenna sought an update on the works at Rathkeenan. Vincent Collins confirmed that the water had been redirected to the field, the roadside had been cleaned and that further works were planned.

Councillor Caroline Lynch sought an update on the provision of bins in Ballivor. Vincent Collins confirmed that bins had been installed in Ballivor and Kildalkey.

### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Congratulations were extended to:

- Noelle Finnegan and Gillian Doyle on the recent births of their children.
- Meath County Council staff on the Christmas lights.

### **4 Statutory Business**

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

A report had been circulated.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The footpath at Whitehall was commended;
- The winter gritting programme in Trim town.

### **5 Notice of Question**

**5.1** Submitted by Councillor Enda Flynn

“As the budget for 2015, which shows an increase in funding, has been passed with my support can the council clarify the increase in resources that will be allocated to Enfield for the year ahead to deal with litter and maintain approach roads, the main street, the relief road and the roundabout on the way to the village after you exit the M4.”



## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

**A response was provided by the Senior Executive Engineer, Trim Municipal District, as follows:**

*As there are no plans for an increase in employee numbers in the Trim Municipal District, there will be no specific increase in personnel resources for Enfield. However an increase in the environmental maintenance budget, if such is the case when municipal district budgets appear on the financial management system in the new year, will mean that more roadsweeper time can be procured or, if direct labour is judged the most efficient method of achieving a particular task, some of the work carried out by direct labour in 2014 can be contracted out in order to free up the necessary person hours.*

The response was noted.

**5.2** Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

“Given that Irish Water has requested Meath County Council to compile and submit a list of Local Authority dwellings and tenants, can the executive please confirm if Meath County Council has handed over these details to Irish Water or is it their intention to comply with this request and is it intended to inform tenants that their personal details will be given to a third party?”

**A response was provided by the Housing Section, as follows:**

*Correspondence was issued by Irish Water on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014 to all Local Authorities, requesting that they prepare a list of all domestic properties in their ownership and associated tenant names, for provision to Irish Water. Further details and timing of this process are to be issued, and we currently await same. No information has been forwarded to Irish Water by Meath County Council at this time. The Council will revert with a further report to members when we have full details regarding the matter, and are in a position to make a response to the aforementioned request.*

The response was noted.

Councillor Lynch requested that Councillors be informed of any related developments.

**5.3** Submitted by Councillor Ronan McKenna

“Can the executive please furnish a report on the condition of the roads and paths in St. John’s, the works required to bring them to an acceptable standard, the cost of these works and the timeframe for their completion?”



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### **A response was provided by the Transportation Section, as follows:**

*There are a number of areas of footpath in St Johns that require reconstruction. All of the roads in the estate require a wearing coarse overlay. This particular estate has been on the aspiration list for a number of years now and was raised quite a few times during the lifetime of the last area council. It is intended to report progress on this issue during the first quarter of 2015.*

The response was noted.

## **6 Notice of Motion**

### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch**

“That Trim Municipal District writes to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and asks that Irish Water be abolished in light of public demand for same.”

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

A discussion followed on issues relating to Irish Water, following which a roll call vote was held. The result of this was two Councillors For, two Councillors Against and two Councillors Absent. As there was an equality of votes, the Chair exercised his casting vote and the motion was defeated.

### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch**

“That Trim Municipal District supports an event under the theme of positive mental health for Comhairle na nÓg in light of the recent positive AGM, where this theme was identified.”

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

The motion was unanimously agreed.

### **6.3 Submitted by Councillor Noel French**

“That Meath County Council provides spotlighting on the Wellington Column to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo.”



## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.

**Supporting information was provided by the Administrative Officer, Trim Municipal District, as follows:**

*The Wellington Monument is a protected structure, in an ACA, but is not a National Monument. It is just inside the zone of archaeological potential for the town of Trim.*

*This area is well beyond the mapped medieval Town Walls and marks the southern extent of an extra-mural borough that was probably defended with ditches and ramparts or other earth-and-timber arrangement. The area was probably entered via a form of gate from the Summerhill Road to Emmet Street.*

*The monument appears to be at an important 17<sup>th</sup> Century crossroads, where a very large tower house castle could be located on the Down Survey mapping. In 2012, an archaeological test trenching job did not find much in this area. However, as it shows there are archaeological remains involved, we will be required to apply for Section 14 consent and will have to confirm same with the National Monuments Service for their views and guidance.*

*The roadway has been dug up many times in the past and should we proceed with works, the need to provide an archaeological monitoring condition could be forthcoming unless a desk-based review showed no potential disturbances or by using previous ducts.*

*As a Protected Structure, any works that would materially affect the character of the structure would require planning permission by way of the Part 8 process.*

*The main objectives of external lighting should be:*

- *To promote observation and experience of the site against the night sky;*
- *To give the building an added dimension, which will enhance its key architectural elements as well as its social and historical significance;*
- *To improve the quality of the nocturnal environment by promoting safety, i.e. avoidance of trip hazards;*
- *To enhance night-time orientation and use, which could potentially benefit the local economy.*

*Therefore an aesthetic, as well as a technical approach is essential and will ultimately govern the result.*



## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

*As part of the design process, distance, angle and position of the viewer should always be taken into account. It is often better to illuminate selected architectural and sculptural features rather than illuminating the whole structure.*

*Upkeep of lighting is expensive and there is always the potential for vandalism, which in turn requires repairs. The Yellow Steeple lights are large and cost about €1,700 per annum, but they are appropriate to the size of the Tower. If we decide to light Wellington, the lights themselves would need to be as discreet as possible to avoid damaging the character of the structure.*

*Firstly, we need to establish the position of the lighting, whether at the base, to uplight the column or on top of the capitol, to light the statue. Secondly, we need to determine how the lighting is to be fixed, what they will look like, and address how the power would reach the statue lights, e.g. street furniture or nearby buildings or where there are trees and shrubs, it may be possible to disguise lighting poles. Thirdly, we may have problems with residents, bats, owls, insects, flora and fauna. Lighting can affect some animals, e.g. bats and owls, that make historic buildings their home. Some animals and their habitats are protected by law. Where proposed external lighting may affect such animals, an impact assessment will need to be undertaken, taking into account breeding, hibernation and points of egress and ingress.*

*Conclusion – Lighting the Wellington Monument in Trim would be a long-term commitment from Meath County Council and this would be reflected in the costs associated with a sympathetic design and installation, as well as ongoing maintenance.*

*The proposal is to light the Monument “to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo” (18<sup>th</sup> June 1815). However, the inscription reads ‘**This column erected in the year MDCCCXVII (1817) in honour of the illustrious Duke of Wellington by the grateful of County Meath**’ and does not mention Waterloo, which ended the Napoleonic Wars (1803 – 1815).*

*The impression is that there is a desire to light the monument permanently, i.e. to become a celebration of Arthur Wesley/Wellesley (Duke of Wellington) and his connection with Meath and Dangan Castle, and therefore Trim.*

A short discussion followed on the benefits of installing lighting at the monument and it was agreed that an update would be provided as soon as possible, possibly February.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

## **7 Correspondence**

7.1.1 Correspondence from the Department of Education and Skills – Sharing of



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

School Facilities.

The correspondence was noted. It was suggested that Councillors and the Community Department of Meath County Council share this information with community groups.

- 7.1.2 Correspondence received from William Fallon and Michael Love requesting the public right of way be extinguished on the L62112 – Coolderry Boreen from point A to B as per the attached map.

The correspondence was noted. It was confirmed that this will be brought to the Municipal District for resolution once it has been through due process, including public display.

### **8 Any Other Business**

#### **8.1 Councillor Noel French raised the following issues:**

- The timeline for a plan to progress the provision of social housing – it was confirmed that a special meeting of the Housing SPC had taken place this week to discuss the Housing Strategy and that it was anticipated that a report will be presented to the January meeting of Meath County Council on implementation of the provisions of the strategy.
- CCTV coverage in Trim following the recent raid on a business premises.
- Concerns of residents regarding the playground in Enfield.
- That the Planning Department contact the developer of Woodfield Estate, Athboy Road, Ballivor regarding the collapse of the front wall.

#### **8.2 Councillor Caroline Lynch referred to a planned workshop for parties interested in social housing and a report being prepared on homelessness and housing for people with disabilities.**

#### **8.3 Councillor Ronan McKenna raised the following issues:**

- The deposition of materials by the ESB on the green area in Avondale as a result of works on the Kildalkey Road and the need to have the green area, roads and footpaths reinstated – it was confirmed that the area will have to be reinstated to a certain standard and that this will be reviewed.



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

- Absence of lighting at a location at Newtown on the Lackanash Road – it was confirmed that the landowner had been approached with regard to the trees at this location and that this would be reviewed.
- 8.4** Councillor Joe Fox raised the issue of the height warning signage approaching the bridge at Longwood to divert HGVs appropriately – it was confirmed that the existing signage would be reviewed and that the NRA may be able to assist regarding sat nav directions.
- 8.5** Tributes were paid by the Cathaoirleach and Councillors to Vincent Collins and Fiona Skehan, who would be transferring in January to the Housing and Corporate Services Sections respectively. Both were thanked for their contribution to the council and to the town of Trim and surrounding areas. Councillors wished them well in their new roles and looked forward to continue to working with them in the future.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

---

**Cathaoirleach**