



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Trim Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

2:00 p.m., 16th July 2021, Via Zoom

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

Councillors Present: Aisling Dempsey, Noel French, Trevor Golden, Ronan Moore, Niamh Souhan.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Des Foley

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Maura Daly

Assistant Engineer: Donna Pringle

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Annual Meeting held on 18th June 2021.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 18th June 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Aisling Dempsey**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 18th June 2021.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18th June 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Aisling Dempsey**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Noel French raised the following matters:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Queried whether a response had been received from the Department of Education & Skills in relation to the vacant school premises in Trim and Kildalkey – it was confirmed that no response had yet been received.
- Requested an update on the drain in Longwood – the CCTV footage has not yet been received from the developer.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Jimmy Cudden, former Meath County Councillor, to whom tributes were paid.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Meath County Council outdoor staff, Trim Tidy Towns and businesses on the excellent work in the town this year;
- Kildalkey Tidy Towns for entering the competition for the first time in many years;
- Longwood Tidy Towns, Enfield Tidy Towns, Summerhill Tidy Towns and all development groups in villages throughout the municipal district for their work this year.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Environment

- 4.1.1 To receive a short presentation about the UN Sustainable Development Goals and how Meath County Council are integrating these into organisational culture. To receive an update on the URBACT Global Goals for Cities project.

Caroline Corrigan, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment delivered a presentation which provided information on the Sustainable Development Goals



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

(SDGs), Global Goals 4 Cities, which includes Trim, the only Irish town, and examples of how to become involved.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors thanked Caroline for the work undertaken to date and confirmed that they were looking forward to becoming more involved and further training opportunities.

4.2 Transportation

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

The report, which had been circulated in advance, was noted.

Reference was made to the damaged speed signs in Boardsmill and queried if they are in the correct location to be visible/safe from being damaged again – these are being assessed with a view to repairing or replacing them and they will be reviewed if further damage occurs.

- 4.2.2 To advise the members of the Municipal District that Meath County Council Transportation Department propose to put the draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) (Housing Estates) County of Meath Bye-Laws (No.1) 2021 on public display as required by Section 9 of the Road Traffic Acts, 2004 (No.44 of 2004).

Paul McKown, Executive Engineer, Transportation outlined the information circulated in advance, including the estates to be added for review. Consent was sought to proceed to put the maps and new byelaw on public display, following which they would be brought back to the municipal district and then to the full council for approval.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden** to proceed as outlined, subject to a number of details being checked. It was agreed to circulate the guidance on the speed limits and signage. It was pointed out that if there is a particular issue regarding speeding in estates, this should be referred to Transportation but that the byelaw is the initial step in addressing the issue.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

4.3 Planning

4.3.1 To consider taking in charge of the following and the making of a declaration that the roads within the development shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2020:

- Effernock Manor, Trim

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan Moore**.

4.4 Corporate Services

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

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted. Councillors were reminded that the deadline for the receipt of completed application and deferral forms is 30th September.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Ronan Moore

“To ask the Council if the continuing irregularity of water supply in Enfield caused in large part by the lack of reservoir is being currently employed by the Planning Department as a factor when determining the approval of planning permissions in the Enfield area; and if not, whether the Planning Department consider it appropriate to include as a criteria for future planning approvals, particularly large scale developments, at least until a dated commitment is given by Irish Water for the commencement of works to provide a reservoir to serve the Enfield area.”

Response:

All planning applications with respect to one-off houses and multi-developments are referred to Irish Water for comment as part of the planning referral process. This is Irish

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Water's opportunity to determine whether it can facilitate additional connections to the network. Very often in the case of multi-developments, the applicant carries out a pre-connection enquiry with Irish Water prior to lodging the application with the Planning Authority. All comments received from Irish Water are taken into consideration during the determination of the application.

The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

It was agreed to take Items 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 together.

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Aisling Dempsey

“To receive an update from Meath County Council in relation to the EPA report on the visit to Enfield Water Treatment Plant in April 2021, and to receive an update on any progress on improvements to water supply in Enfield, Ballivor and other areas within the Trim Municipal District.”

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

Ballivor, Enfield and Longwood WTP's:

As outlined previously, during 2020 Irish Water engaged a contractor to undertake works at Enfield, Ballivor and Longwood Water Treatment Plants (WTPs). These works included, the addition of UV treatment at each site, modifications to the chlorination systems, additional instrumentation and the installation of automated controls. These works resulted in numerous unplanned shutdowns of these WTPs causing frequent interruptions to customers, in particular in both Ballivor and Enfield.

In Ballivor WTP the works undertaken by IW proved to be very problematic and hence could not be commissioned and made operable until April this year, after additional works were undertaken. At Enfield WTP the works undertaken by IW were also initially very problematic and hence, in order to reduce the frequency of unplanned customer interruptions, MCC turned off part of the newly installed auto shut down for a period of



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

c. 6 weeks between late February and mid April whilst Irish Waters contractor could diagnose and try to address the issues that were causing such frequent unplanned shut downs.

The EPA audited the Ballivor, Enfield and Longwood WTP's in April and were critical of the fact that, the works undertaken by IW were ongoing and that they had not been kept advised of this and also that, part of the auto shutdown at Enfield WTP had been turned off for a c. 6 week period and that they had not been made aware of this. The EPA made a number of points which the Council did not agree with and which we have since raised with them.

At each location the full treatment plant (ie the treatment processes successfully and satisfactorily used for many years prior to the recent IW works) continued to be utilised throughout and hence MCC were satisfied that the level of treatment was at all times satisfactory.

Since April, all of the new auto shut down equipment has been in continuous operation at each of the three WTPs. As a result, there will continue to be unplanned auto shutdowns at times, at each location, although, these will hopefully be less frequent than experienced early this year.

IW is planning to undertake some additional works at each of the three WTP's which will make these facilities more robust and less prone to unplanned auto shutdowns. These works are expected to be completed in Q4 2021.

As outlined previously, Enfield and Longwood are unusual in that they do not have storage reservoirs, whilst only part of Ballivor is served by a very small storage tower. This means that there is no storage buffer to ensure that customer supply is not interrupted when there are unplanned auto shutdowns at these WTPs. In this regard, the required solution is the provision of water storage in Ballivor, Enfield and Longwood. The Council will continue to advocate for the provision of this required storage by Irish Water.

Ballivor, Enfield and Longwood Storage Reservoirs:

Last week Irish Water advised the Council that, it had now approved proceeding to construction stage for the Longwood Storage Reservoir. In this regard MCC are currently working with IW to progress to construction as quickly as possible. We would hope that



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

the contractor will be appointed over the coming weeks and that the new reservoir at Longwood WTP can be completed and become operational by Q2 of 2022.

IW advise that they are currently considering the provision of required storage at both Ballivor and Enfield WTPs. The Council will continue to engage with IW in relation to this and would hope that approval to proceed to construction with both will be forthcoming quite soon.

Ballivor Water Supply:

Over recent weeks, due to the prolonged warm, dry weather, the demand for water in Ballivor and environs has exceeded the capacity of the Ballivor groundwater source. In order to prevent the level in the aquifer falling to a critical level and hence to safeguard this supply, we have reduced the daily output from the WTP slightly and to make up the shortfall, we are tankering water from Trim to Ballivor tower. Whilst initially some customers experienced supply interruptions as these arrangements were put in place, over recent weeks the situation has been more stable. We expect the need for some tankering to continue over the summer.

MCC is engaging with IW to explore and progress the short and longer term capital interventions required to address this issue as soon as possible.

Trim Water Treatment Plant:

We are currently at the final stages of the procurement process for a specialist Consultant Engineering firm to design and oversee the planned major capital upgrade of Trim WTP.

On this basis we are currently still on track for these major upgrade works to be completed by the end of 2023 / early 2024.

Enfield Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion:

Planning permission for the expansion of Enfield Wastewater Treatment Plant (including the provision of reed beds) was secured in recent weeks and we are currently preparing the Tender documentation. We expect this project to proceed to tender in Q4 2021 and for works to start on site in mid 2022 and therefore, to be complete by the end of 2023.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

When complete, the expanded plant will provide significant additional capacity to facilitate the continued planned development and growth of the town. The Enfield WWTP also serves Johnstown Bridge.

A discussion followed, with acknowledgement that Meath County Council is doing all it can but that the issue rests with Irish Water with no timescale available for the provision of a reservoir in Enfield, which is urgently needed.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Aisling Dempsey** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**, was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

“That no further new housing construction is allowed to commence in Longwood, Ballivor and Enfield until an adequate water supply can be guaranteed to all consumers in those settlements.”

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

See response under Item 5.1.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by Councillor Noel French and seconded by Councillor Trevor Golden, was agreed.

Following a discussion, it was agreed to amend the motion, as follows:

“That the Planning Department take into account the level and frequency of water outages when considering new planning applications in Longwood, Ballivor and Enfield.”

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

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Noel French



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

“That Trim Municipal District Council of Meath County Council expresses its concerns to Irish Water at the reports of the Environmental Protection Agency into the operation of the water treatment plants in Enfield, Ballivor and Longwood.”

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

See supporting information under Item 6.1.

Councillors expressed their dissatisfaction at not being informed in advance that the EPA reports were being carried out.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden**, was agreed.

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Joe Fox

"To make the road L62274-0 Ballycarn, Enfield a Cul De Sac from the ring road to the L6229-0."

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

It is the view of the Transportation Department that the closure of this road would be premature pending the determination of the access arrangements to zoned land adjacent to this road, as the closure of this road could restrict access to the zoned lands and adversely impact on the potential development of the site.

Any proposed closure would have to follow a Statutory process which would invite submissions on the proposal. It should be noted that the L-62274-1 was split by the construction of the Enfield By-Pass and residents and properties on the section of the road south of the By-Pass may be impacted by the road closure and may not support the proposal.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

It was suggested that the road be made a cul de sac on a temporary, trial basis and it was noted that, as part of the statutory process, the public, including residents, can make submissions.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden**, was agreed.

6.5 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden

“To support the existing Meath County Council wardens in combating illegal dumping and littering, I ask Meath County Council to explore all options available to increase the number of Litter Wardens. The motion seeks to increase our capacity to deliver a greater deterrent and response.”

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

The Council are involved in many different initiatives and actions designed to tackle the problems of illegal dumping and littering, comprising of a mixture of education / awareness and enforcement. Meath County Council provide a litter warden service in line with the numbers in the current Workforce Plan. Any increase in staffing levels would require changes to the Workforce Plan and additional financial support. If additional financial assistance becomes available in the future, this Notice of Motion can be considered, but for the moment, the Council is committed to maintaining its Litter Warden staffing numbers at their current level.

It was requested that consideration be given to appointing a private company to assist with enforcement, particularly targeting the bigger illegal operators.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Trevor Golden** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**, was agreed.

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

7.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 11th June 2021.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The minutes were noted.

- 7.2 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 6th May 2021.

The report was noted.

- 7.3 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC meeting of 30th June 2021.

The report was noted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach