



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

6th September 2021, (via Zoom only) @ 1.30p.m.

Presiding

Councillor Seán Drew, Cathaoirleach

Councillors Present:

Councillors Yemi Adenuga, Tom Behan, Joe Bonner, Mike Bray, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Aisling Dempsey, Edward Fennessy, Brian Fitzgerald, Pádraig Fitzsimons, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, Deirdre Geraghty-Smith, David Gilroy, Trevor Golden, Wayne Harding, Suzanne Jamal, Geraldine Keogan, Nick Killian, Alan Lawes, Paul McCabe, Elaine McGinty, Stephen McKee, Paddy Meade, Ronan Moore, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Aisling O'Neill, Damien O'Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Niamh Souhan, Alan Tobin, Emer Tóibín, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole, Conor Tormey.

Apologies: Councillor Amanda Smith

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Jackie Maguire

Directors of Service: Des Foley, Fiona Lawless, Barry Lynch, Martin Murray, Dara McGowan

Meetings Administrator: Robert Collins

Senior Executive Officers: Ger Murphy, Larry Whelan

Senior Planner: Pádraig Maguire

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 5th July 2021.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 5th July 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Finance meeting held on 30th August 2021.

The minutes of the Special Finance meeting held on 30th August 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Lawes** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Jimmy Cudden, former Councillor.
- Avril Brady, Finance Department on the death of her father, Joseph (Joe) Fox.
- The family of the late Gerry Duignan, retired outdoor staff member.



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- Andy Faulkner, Transportation on the death of his father, Colm Faulkner.
- David Farnan, Duleek Library on the death of his father, James Farnan.
- Clár Muhammad, Corporate Services on the death of her brother, Peter Sinnott.
- The family of the late David Conroy, Laytown
- The family of the late Gráinne Bray, Ashbourne
- The family of the late Ray Fox, Ratoath
- The family of the late Danny Fitzpatrick, former councillor, Navan Town Council
- The family of the late Thomas (Noel) Lightholder, Navan

Expressions of Congratulations:

An Cathaoirleach spoke on behalf of all members in paying special tribute to the achievements of the Meath Senior Ladies Football Team and to the Meath Minor Football Team for their great victories over the last number of days, for restoring real pride in the county and giving the people of the county such great enjoyment.

Congratulations were also extended to:

- Trim Senior and Minor Hurling teams for the County Championship success
- Meath Minor Camogie Team on reaching an All-Ireland final
- Eddie Maguire on becoming British Open Champion golfer for the visually impaired
- Evan Fergusson on his debuts for Brighton FC and Ireland U21 teams
- Alex Maguire on his performance in the amateur Open Championship
- Volleyball Ireland for the beach volleyball weekend on Laytown Beach
- Kerrie Leonard, Irish Archery Paralympian
- Meath Minor and U20 Hurling Teams

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

- 4.1 Disposal of 0.1502 Ha of Land by way of transfer at Vocational School Townparks, Bective Street, Kells, Co Meath, in accordance with Section 211 of Planning & Development Act 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

The disposal, in accordance with the statutory notice issued on July 22, 2021, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Paul McCabe** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**.

- 4.2 Disposal of 0.2007 Ha of Land by way of transfer at Blackwater Park, Navan, Co Meath, in accordance with Section 211 of Planning & Development Act 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

The disposal, in accordance with the statutory notice issued on August 16, 2021, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga**.



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5 Statutory Business

5.1 Planning

5.1.1 To agree the Schedule for the Special Planning Meeting to consider the Chief Executive's Report on Material Amendments and to adopt the County Development Plan 2021-2027

The following dates/times were proposed:

Date	Times	
Monday, September 20	9.30-13.00 and 14.00-17.00	
Tuesday, September 21	9.30-13.00 and 14.00-17.00	
Wednesday, September 22	11.00-13.00 and 14.00-17.00	Workshop – Rural Housing
Monday, September 27	9.30-13.00 and 14.00-17.00	
Tuesday, September 28	14.00-17.00	

Councillor David Gilroy sought clarification on the nature and format of these meetings. The Meetings Administrator confirmed that the meetings would take place in the Solstice Theatre, with options for members to participate in-person or remotely. All other arrangements would apply as with the previous series of Special Planning Meetings.

The proposed schedule of meetings was unanimously agreed on a proposal by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.

5.2 Corporate Affairs and Governance

5.2.1 To receive a presentation from Foras Na Gaeilge

A presentation was made by Mr Gearóid Trimble and Ms. Ursula Ní Shabhaois from Foras na Gaeilge which outlined the Role of Foras na Gaeilge, the services it offers and the schemes it implements, an overview of the Language Planning Process and status of the Irish language in County Meath, including language planning and the role of the Gaeltacht Service Towns.

There were a number of interventions from **Councillors: Aisling Dempsey; Alan Tobin; Emer Tóibín; Mike Bray; and David Gilroy**, with questions focusing on the Service Towns and Gaelscoileanna and responses provided by the Foras na Gaeilge representatives. Both An Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive thanked Foras na Gaeilge for the presentation and offered to work with it in future in supporting the development of the Irish language in the county.

5.2.2 To receive the Meath County Council Irish Language Scheme 2021-2024.

The Council's 2nd Irish Language Scheme was introduced by Mr Dara McGowan, Director of Services, and outlined by Ms. Noirin Murphy, Irish Language Officer. She provided a background in terms of the public consultation process undertaken and the internal audit of services which was the foundation for preparing the scheme. She highlighted a number of service enhancements that would be implemented under the lifetime of the scheme.



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There were a number of follow-up comments and questions from the following **Councillors: Noel French; Michael Gallagher; Emer Tóibín; David Gilroy; Paul McCabe; Aisling Dempsey; Nick Killian and Yemi Adenuga**. Responses were provided by the Irish Language Officer.

5.2.3 To agree the name of the R150 Laytown to Bettystown Road as Tara Road, following the outcome of the public poll on the road name.

The naming of the R150 Laytown-Bettystown Road as Tara Road – Bóthar na Teamhrach was agreed on a proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Behan**.

5.2.4 To appoint a replacement Councillor to the Louth Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB) following the resignation of Councillor Emer Tóibín.

On a proposal of **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**, Councillor Amanda Smith was agreed as the replacement Councillor to the Louth Meath ETB.

5.3 Finance

5.3.1 To receive a year to date Financial Statement for Meath County Council as at 30th June 2021.

Following a brief overview by the Chief Executive, the report was noted by the Elected Members.

6 Reports

6.1 Chief Executive's Report

There were comments and clarifications sought by **Councillors Nick Killian, Mike Bray and Alan Tobin** focusing on:

Housing: Vacant Sites levy; the Housing for All strategy; the purchase of land for social housing; Housing Adaptation grants; HAP applications from adjoining counties and their impact on rent levels.

Environment: Anti-littering and dog fouling schemes.

Transportation: Social media campaign on road safety focusing on walkers, cyclists, horse-riders.

Responses were provided by Mr Martin Murray and Mr Barry Lynch, Directors of Services.

6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator informed the meeting that the CPG had agreed a number of proposed changes to the Standing Orders, with a view to making the business of Council meetings more efficient. The draft revised Standing Orders would be on the agenda of the October meeting for consideration and adoption.

With regard to future meeting arrangements, the CPG endorsed the proposed schedule of meetings and other arrangements for the Special Planning Meeting. It also proposed that the MD meetings would be in-person only from October, in County Hall and Ashbourne Civic Offices, but would remain



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online for September and that Council meetings would return to the Solstice Theatre from October, in a hybrid format. The CPG also noted the report from a joint meeting of the Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC and the Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC .

Noted by the Elected Members.

6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator informed the meeting that the Protocol Committee considered the agreed Civic Reception for the Meath Ladies Senior Football Team and was recommending that the Council also bestow this honour to the All-Ireland winning Minor Team. If agreed, both events would be planned for later in the year, after October 23rd when public health restrictions would be lifted.

The Protocol Committee also considered a Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Emer Tóibín on commemorating those that have lost their lives during the pandemic. The Protocol Committee was proposing that any commemoration in the county be stalled to await further clarification on the national plan and to address this at a later, more appropriate time. The Committee also received updates on the establishment of the Women's Caucus and on the roll-out of IT upgrades to councillors.

Councillor Nick Killian asked that the Council organise a workshop for elected members on the new vouched expenses system. The Meetings Administrator indicated that this would be organised as soon as guidance and clarification was received from the Department as to how the system will operate.

On a proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**, the Council agreed to bestow the honour of a Civic Reception to the All-Ireland winning Meath Minor Football Team.

7 Correspondence

7.1 Correspondence from Norma Foley, Minister for Education in response to Notice of Motion 9.5 adopted at the June 2021 meeting of the full Council re. request to reinstate the Modern Languages in Primary Schools Initiative, which ended in 2012, to promote foreign language skills for young children and furthermore, to fully implement the Languages Connect Strategy, launched in 2017, which sets out that Ireland should be among the top ten countries in Europe for the teaching and learning of modern foreign languages.

Noted by the Elected Members.

7.2 Correspondence from the Joint Committee on Disability Matters in response to Notice of Motion 9.12 adopted at the June 2021 meeting of the full Council re. support for campaign of Epilepsy Ireland to address long-standing issues that continue to impact on people with epilepsy and their families in Ireland today, namely: (1) Access to Free Travel; and (2) Provision of Reasonable Accommodations for State Examinations for students with epilepsy.

Noted by the Elected Members.



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7.3 Correspondence from Stephen Donnelly, T.D., Minister for Health in response to Notice of Motion 9.13 adopted at the June 2021 meeting of the full Council re. Covid Vaccination Programme.

Noted by the Elected Members.

7.4 Correspondence from Anne Rabbitte T.D., Minister for Disabilities in response to Notice of Motion 9.14 adopted at the June 2021 meeting of the full Council re. establishment of the Transport Support Scheme.

Noted by the Elected Members.

7.5 Correspondence from Peter Burke T.D., Minister for Planning and Local Government in response to Notice of Motion 9.1 adopted at the July 2021 meeting of the full Council re. request to review the role of An Taisce in the planning process, as part of a full review of all planning legislation.

Councillor Joe Fox highlighted the funding issue in the response.

Noted by the Elected Members.

7.6 Correspondence from Eamon Ryan T.D., Minister for Transport in response to Notice of Motion 9.6 adopted at the July 2021 meeting of the full Council re. request to permit newly built homes in Meath without Eircode's to apply for the EV Home Charger Grant

Noted by the Elected Members.

7.7 Correspondence from the Department of Rural and Community Development re. 2021 Streetscape Enhancement Measure 2021 (TVRS).

Councillor Sharon Tolan highlighted the very tight timelines set out in the letter and **An Cathaoirleach** supported the call for an extension in the deadlines. Mr Barry Lynch, Director of Services, provided an explanation as to why the timelines were as set out in the letter.

Noted by the Elected Members.

7.8 Correspondence from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) re. TII's Role in relation to Greenway Delivery and Development of the National Cycle Network Strategy.

Noted by the Elected Members.

7.9 Circular RW 09/2021 - Department of Transport re. Community Involvement Schemes.

Noted by the Elected Members.

7.10 Circular RW 12 of 2021 – Department of Transport re. Speed Limits Appeals Procedure.

Councillors Mike Bray, Maria Murphy and David Gilroy sought clarification on the implications of the proposed procedure and who the technical nominees were from Meath County Council. Responses were provided by Mr. Martin Murray, Director of Services.

Noted by the Elected Members.



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8 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

“What is the carbon footprint of Meath County Council?”

Response

Chapter 4 of the Councils Climate Action Strategy launched in 2019 and titled “Our Carbon Baseline” contains a baseline emissions inventory and provides data related to Meath’s County Council emissions (i.e. our direct emissions), and emissions at County level for the 2012. The Strategy shows Meath County Council emissions of 17,399 tonnes of CO₂ for that year, with this figure primarily extracted from returns submitted to the Sustainable Energy Authority and relating to fossil fuel usage on heating and travel as well as electricity usage.

The recently enacted Climate Action Bill 2021 will require Local Authorities to prepare new Climate Action Plans to include both mitigation and adaptation measures and while full details are still awaited from the Department, it is expected there will be a requirement on all public bodies to calculate their carbon footprint based on a more recent baseline year.

Noted by the Elected Members.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Lawes

“Under what policy of Meath County Council or what legislation of Government would Meath County Council refuse to offer emergency accommodation to a homeless family with children?”

Response

In order to qualify for homeless services (including emergency accommodation) within Meath County Council’s remit, clients must be assessed as to their eligibility for housing support in accordance with the Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011 (S.I. no 84 of 2011) as amended. In dealing with the assessment of non-Irish nationals the Council is also governed by the requirements of Housing Circular 41/2012 which outlines the circumstances under which such applicants may be assessed for social housing support.

The assessment of the application will include consideration as to whether the applicant has a local connection to County Meath.

The matter of local connection is specified further in regulation 6 of the 2011 regulations as follows:

6. A housing authority of application shall, in determining if a household has a local connection with its functional area, have regard to whether:

- (a) a household member resided for a continuous 5-year period at any time in the area concerned, or*
- (b) the place of employment of a household member is in the area concerned or is located within 15 kilometres of the area, or*
- (c) a household member is in full-time education in any university, college, school or other*



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educational establishment in the area concerned, or

(d) a household member with an enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment is attending a medical or residential establishment in the area concerned that has facilities or services specifically related to such impairment, or

(e) a relative of a household member resides in the area concerned and has resided there for a minimum period of 2 years.

If it transpires that the applicant has no local connection with Meath but has a local connection with another Local Authority the Council will redirect the applicant to the Local Authority concerned.

As noted above, in order to access emergency accommodation, the applicant must first qualify for social housing support. If the applicant does not meet the eligibility criteria, including local connection, then the Council will not be in a position to provide them with emergency accommodation.

Councillor Alan Lawes sought clarifications, in particular as to whether Meath County Council had received an instruction from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the use of the location criterion in assessing an application. Mr Barry Lynch, Director of Services, provided a response and indicated that such an instruction would be circulated to elected members for information.

Noted by the Elected Members.

9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Harding

“To call on Meath County Council to designate bathing site status at certain appropriate locations along the river Boyne, similar to those on our beaches, and in doing so to increase water quality testing and safety measures around such designated bathing locations.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

The 2008 Bathing Water Regulations set out the specific requirements on the part of local authorities in relation to the identification of bathing water areas and including consideration of submissions from members of the public and the submission of a bathing water profile to the EPA by the 24TH March each year.

The process for seeking to have a river site designated as a bathing water would be the same process as for a coastal water but the following actions and considerations would have to be taken into account:

1. The exact river locations being proposed and evidence of peak daily numbers swimming at those locations.



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2. The need for advices from Irish Water Safety on the suitability of locations on water safety grounds and particularly having regard to river flows and currents
3. A detailed appraisal on safe access, parking, toilet facilities, and lifeguard facilities.
4. Any proposals for sites on the River Boyne which are in the SAC or SPA, would need Screening for Appropriate Assessment and consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
5. Water quality – is the river vulnerable to episodes of microbial contamination after heavy rainfall.
6. Resource implications for the Council associated with water quality testing and the provision of lifeguard facilities.

It is suggested that following the receipt of the information in respect of point 1 above, the motion can receive further consideration.

Councillor Wayne Harding introduced the motion, referring to the network of existing bathing sites across the county at beaches and lakes but not at rivers. He recognised the process required to designate bathing sites but considered that there are real benefits in terms of improving water quality and improving facilities in communities. A number of others spoke in favour of the motion, including **Councillors: Sharon Tolan; Ronan Moore; and Paul McCabe**. Mr Dara McGowan, Director of Services, confirmed the process for designation, which includes a public consultation whereby any site may be proposed. He did highlight however that there was currently no provision in the Capital Programme for the required ancillary services at new bathing sites. An Cathaoirleach suggested that specific sites need to be identified before the proposal could process any further.

The supporting information and motion proposed by **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** was noted.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

“To call on Meath County Council to carry out a review of playgrounds, per Municipal District area, in the interests of combatting vandalism and anti-social behaviour and enhancing safety in public playgrounds in the county.”

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

It is proposed to forward the Notice of Motion to the next meeting of the Joint Policing Committee where the issue of anti-social behaviour at playgrounds and other locations can be discussed.

At the request of Councillor Fennessy, it was agreed to defer this Notice of Motion to the October meeting.

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Elaine McGinty

“That Meath County Council reviews the carbon footprint of all future developments to ensure their footprint will not negatively impact national carbon reduction targets as specified in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2021 and that sufficient existing electricity generating



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capacity exists in the national grid to power the development in order for planning permission to be granted?"

Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 enshrines into law Ireland's commitment to addressing the climate crisis. The legislation makes provisions for carbon budgets and this will impact on all sectors, steering them towards low carbon activities.

In terms of planning permissions granted and subsequent development the construction activity will generally be the most carbon intensive, mainly the use of fossil fuels for construction plant and the carbon embedded in the construction materials and the transport of same to site. Unfortunately, it is not possible to ascertain the carbon footprint at planning stage given the large amount of unknowns. For example, on a housing estate project there will be many different types of plant and machinery used and it would be unknown at time of planning application what if any could be hybrid/fossil fuel free given the amount of sub-contractors and trades involved. In terms of materials even if a particular material is specified there could be many sources of this material and at time of application this would not be decided and would depend upon availability.

In larger applications the applicant is conditioned to submit a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), this sets out certain procedures to ameliorate and reduce environmental nuisance and in turn impacts in reducing carbon e.g. reducing waste, conserving water, etc. Applicants are also asked to consider extreme weather events in this document. At pre-application stage, applicants and their consultants are asked to consider the climate impact of their application and what mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures can be incorporated into the development. Additionally, they are made aware of the existing and impending national Climate Action Plan and our own Climate Action Strategy and asked to consult with these to ensure the application is in line with the objectives of same.

Supporting reduced emissions is the national Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy which has provisions to streamline 'by-product' and 'end of waste' processes for Construction & Demolition Waste (C&D) and revise the Guidelines for C&D Waste. Additionally work is on-going on the Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy. Both will ultimately reduce the use of virgin materials and decrease waste outputs, stimulating innovation to re-use and recycle materials across the sector. As stated above, the legislation and new Climate Action Plan will impact all sectors, including the construction sector, this sector will have to respond by exploring and refining ways to reduce emissions, driven also by an increasing carbon tax. The industry broadly supports the climate ambitions and they see themselves as playing an important role in helping to reduce emissions both in new construction activities and the extensive retro-fitting programme.

Under the new legislation local authorities will be obligated to prepare a Climate Action Plan which embeds both adaptation and mitigation into actions. This allows for a more ambitious plan that will be aligned to the targets in the national plan and also with EU ambitions.



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In terms of grid capacity this is outside of the Council's control. Decarbonization of the grid has an ambition of 70% renewable energy by 2030 and this is an area where Ireland is performing well with growing capacity of solar and off-shore wind. This form of energy generation is challenged by climatic conditions and does not allow the same level of supply surety afforded by fossil fuels, however, renewable energy is an area of rapid innovation and the use and efficiency of battery technology is increasing as is the development of clean hydrogen which will give greater security to the grid. Finally, increased usage of domestic and commercial solar PVs (with battery storage) on newbuilds and retrofits, combined with the use of smart meters, will provide a slight improvement to the grid capacity and increase over time.

An Cathaoirleach outlined to the meeting that Councillor McGinty had indicated in advance of the meeting that she was proposing to amend her motion. However, he considered that the amendment was in fact a different and separate motion to that on the agenda. He therefore proposed that this Notice of Motion be deferred and that Councillor McGinty table the new motion for the October meeting. This was agreed by Councillor McGinty and the elected members.

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher

"That Meath County Council calls on the Department of Agriculture to take control and responsibility for the eradication of Japanese Knot Weed. Local authorities across the country invested heavily to eradicate this weed from the sides of the roads. Yet the Department of Agriculture has no policy in place to control this weed on agriculture land or private property."

Councillor Michael Gallagher the motion and provided an example that prompted him to table the motion. There were interventions from **Councillors: Paddy Meade; Gerry O'Connor; Mike Bray; Joe Fox and Alan Tobin**. While members considered that the Council had done a good job in addressing the issue on lands under its control, they considered that the Department and OPW need to take responsibility for the problem on other lands. Councillors also highlighted other invasive species that had potential to cause similar harm to crops and property.

Councillor Gerry O'Connor proposed an amendment, which was seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**, as follows:

"That Meath County Council calls on the Department of Agriculture to put in place a policy to control Japanese Knot Weed on agricultural land and/or private property and to take responsibility for the eradication of this invasive species. Local authorities across the country have already invested heavily to eradicate this weed from the sides of the roads."

The amended motion, proposed by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade** was adopted. Councillor Gallagher requested that the adopted motion be circulated to other local authorities for information.



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9.5 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

“That Meath County Council calls on the Department of Health to carry out a public investigation into the decisions taken at government level that led to thousands of elderly patients being moved out of hospitals and placed into nursing homes last year at a time when the CMO was calling for the doors of nursing homes to remain open leading to over 2000 lives being lost or two thirds of all Covid outbreak deaths in the country.”

Councillor Emer Tóibín introduced the motion calling for an inquiry and set out a number of aspects of the how the pandemic response was handled which should be part of such an inquiry. There were a number of inputs from members on this motion, with **Councillor Gillian Toole** supporting the motion, saying that the country needed to learn from mistakes and highlighting that frontline resources, such as ICU beds, had not been increased in response. Others including **Councillors Alan Tobin; Aisling O’Neill, Noel French; David Gilroy; Gerry O’Connor; Joe Fox and Elaine McGinty** considered that lessons needed to be learned, that systems needed to be reviewed and that an inquiry needs to be ‘solution based’ as opposed to being ‘blame based’ and that the motion, as worded, was already apportioning blame.

Councillor David Gilroy proposed and seconded by **Councillor Aisling O’Neill** an amended wording as follows:

“That Meath County Council calls on the Department of Health to carry out a public investigation into the handling of the epidemic as soon as possible.”

The amended motion, proposed by **Councillor Emer Tóibín** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole** was adopted on a show of hands vote with 20 members in agreement and 1 member in disagreement.

10 Schedule of Chief Executive & Approved Orders (For Information Only)

- 10.1 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Transportation
- 10.2 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Environment
- 10.3 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Housing
- 10.4 Schedule of Chief Executive’s Orders – Community & Enterprise

Noted by the Elected Members.

11 Any Other Business

Councillor David Gilroy extended congratulations to **Councillor Paddy Meade** on getting married during the summer.

Councillor Alan Lawes informed the meeting that he had received a letter from the Council informing him of his failure to comply with the Code of Conduct for Councillors in terms of his use of social media and emails that he sent, which were considered to misrepresent a housing case and to



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be disrespectful to Council staff. He rejected that he had misrepresented the situation and during his intervention indicated that he had material that supported what he had previously said. He also made statements regarding other cases of alleged wrong-doing and contended that the Cathaoirleach had silenced him when he attempted to raise these matters at the July Council Meeting.

In response, Mr Barry Lynch, Director of Services, outlined the facts of the case referred to by Councillor Lawes. He underlined that the Council in dealing with such cases had to follow due process. He stated that it was disingenuous to say that the Council leave people at the side of the road and outlined the steps taken by the Council to deal with the family at the centre of the case who were subsequently assisted by the Council in returning to their country of origin. He further clarified that the other case that Councillor Lawes was referring to related to allegations of wrongdoing at an accommodation facility used by the Council for homeless clients and that the matter was referred to An Garda Síochana for investigation. He did underline that the allegations were not against a Council staff member

He also made reference to the complexities of assessing individuals who present as homeless and who may not disclose all relevant information, for example they may have lost accommodation through criminal activity or have a bench warrant out for their arrest.

An Cathaoirleach stated that he did not silence Councillor Lawes at the July meeting. He clarified that Councillor Lawes had attempted to introduce an emergency motion during the meeting, which was not in compliance with Standing Orders and was therefore deemed not appropriate. He further clarified that Councillor Lawes could have raised the matter under Any Other Business but he had already left the meeting by then. He asked Councillor Lawes to withdraw his statement.

Councillor Gillian Toole raised a point addressed by a table in the Chief Executive's Report and asked what meetings with Oireachtas members were taking place to influence policy on this matter. A response was provided by Mr Barry Lynch, Director of Services.