



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

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

Presiding

Councillor Sean Drew, Cathaoirleach

Councillors Present:

Councillors Yemi Adenuga, Tom Behan, Joe Bonner, Mike Bray, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Aisling Dempsey, Edward Fennessy, Brian Fitzgerald, Padraig 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, Amanda Smith, Niamh Souhan, Alan Tobin, Emer Tóibín, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole, Conor Tormey.

Apologies:

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: Sean Clarke, David Jones, Larry Whelan, Ger Murphy.

Senior Planner: Padraig Maguire

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 1st November 2021.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 1st November 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Lawes**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Preliminary Budget meeting held on 29th November 2021.

The minutes of the Preliminary Budget meeting held on 29th November 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

1.3 Confirmation of minutes of Statutory Budget meeting held on 29th November 2021.

The minutes of the Statutory Budget meeting held on 29th November 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Gillian Toole sought clarity on the date for the commencement of the works at Harlockstown, which Mr Martin Murray, Director of Services provided.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Robert Collins, Corporate Affairs and Governance Department on the death of his father Robert (Bob) Collins.
- The family of the late Ronan McKenna, former employee on his death and the death of his brother Finian.
- The family and friends of Desmond (Des) Fergusson, Kells.
- The family and friends of George Eogan, Nobber, Professor Emeritus of Celtic Archaeology, University College Dublin.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The country on the 100th year anniversary of the Signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty;
- Wolf Tones GAA Club on winning the County Senior Championship
- Drumconrath GAA Club on winning the Division 3 Championship;
- Councillor David Gilroy and Ms Caroline Corrigan on the establishment of Climate Action training for elected members nationally in conjunction with UCC and AILG;
- Towns and villages in the Ratoath Municipal District for the Shop Local, Christmas decorations and additional little collection initiatives;
- Dunshaughlin Harvest Festival and Dunshaughlin Athletic Club for the Christmas Trail;
- Councillors David Gilroy and Edward Fennessy on their respective weddings.

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 0.9671 Ha of Land at Corballis, Laytown, 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 November 11, 2021, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Behan**.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

5.1.1 Presentation by Ms. Anne Graham, Chief Executive Officer, National Transportation Authority

An Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms Graham and her colleagues: Hugh Creegan, Deputy CEO/Director of Transport Planning and Investment and Tim Gaston, Director of Public Transport Services. He proposed to also consider Items 9.2 and 9.4 on the agenda after Ms. Graham's presentation as they were related. He also proposed to limit individual speaking time to 3mins, which was agreed by the elected members.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ms Graham's extensive presentation had a focus on two strategies which are currently open for consultation: the Greater Dublin Area Transportation Strategy 2022-2042; and the Connecting Ireland – Rural Mobility Plan. She outlined the objectives of both strategies and provided more detail on specific aspects of both plans with particular attention on issues of direct relevance to Meath. Included was a state-of-play on the Navan Rail project and an outline of various sustainable transport measures being rolled out across the county. The presentation concluded with an overview of the next steps and a request to all councillors to make a submission to the consultation processes.

There were interventions from the following **Councillors: Tommy Reilly; Gillian Toole; Sharon Tolan; Ronan Moore; Paul McCabe; Noel French; Joe Fox; Maria Murphy; Michael Gallagher; Mike Bray; Nick Killian; Eugene Cassidy; Elaine McGinty; Stephen McKee; Tom Behan; Alan Tobin; Yemi Adenuga; Emer Tóibín; Aisling O'Neill; Paddy Meade; Damien O'Reilly; Sarah Reilly; David Gilroy; Gerry O'Connor and An Cathaoirleach.**

An extensive range of issues was raised by the interventions including: the excellence of the new Navan bus service; the outer orbital route; the 109A bus service; the M3 Parkway service; the northern mainline; fare structures – short hop fares; Leap Card facilities; car parking costs at train stations; cycling facilities and segregation of cycle lanes; local bus services in other towns; Navan Rail project; Mullingar to Dundalk bus route; MH115 bus route; Locallink and Flexibus operations; 108 bus route extension; Dart extension to Enfield; Hill of Down station; cycle network in Dunboyne; 105 bus route; lack of service from Kells to Drogheda; lack of public transport services in north Meath; fare zoning in Meath – some parts of the county in zone 4; 187 bus route – lack of map; costs of zero emissions and diesel buses; park and ride plans for the county; disability services for bus users and use of JAM card; safety route to school; Greenways – cost of the Navan to Nobber Greenway; attractiveness of annual tickets; mobile ticketing initiatives; EV points in park and ride sites; Duleek and Donore services; new station at Cope; Duleek bypass; 190 bus route; bus shelters; transport hubs; possible 109U to serve DCU; ticketing – tap-on/tap-off; electrification and green hydrogen; use of private bus fleets; scooters and e-bikes; N2 bus corridor; service for Robinstown and Kentstown; fares for Gormanston; boundary of Dublin Metropolitan Area; pedestrian facilities, use of Town and Village scheme and future funding; and the positive co-operation between MCC and NTA on the Navan Rail project.

Responses on the issues raised were provided by the NTA representatives.

An Cathaoirleach concluded the discussions by thanking the NTA representatives for their time and the information provided. He asked, in light of the many comments made about the 109A bus route and the M3 Parkway station, that the NTA might revisit these issues again. He thanked the NTA and AECOM for the proactive engagement on the Navan Rail project and considered that it was now time for implementation and delivery on this strategic investment for the county.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The Chief Executive thanked Ms Graham and her colleagues for attending the meeting and also acknowledged the support that the NTA had given to the Council in recent times, in particular the constructive engagement on the Navan Rail project, and expressed the wish for cooperation on future shared objectives.

5.1.2 To ratify the Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) (Housing Estates) County of Meath Bye-Laws (No.1) 2021.

The Bye-Laws were approved unanimously on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**.

5.2 Corporate Services

5.2.1 To adopt the revised Standing Orders regulating the proceedings of the Council.

Mr Dara McGowan and the Meetings Administrator gave a short presentation on the main changes proposed. **Councillor Noel French** proposed, seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**, that the change to Standing Order 19.2 be reversed. This was agreed by the Elected Members.

The revised Standing Orders, including the agreed change to Standing Order 19.2, were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

5.2.2 To adopt the 2022 Protocol for the Municipal District Allocation Scheme.

Councillor Gillian Toole asked that a suitable reference to the Local Property Tax be included in the forms for the MD Allocation Scheme. This was agreed. **Councillor Nick Killian** paid tribute to the staff that administer the scheme.

The revised scheme was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin**.

5.2.3 To appoint a Chairperson to the Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise Support and European Affairs SPC following the resignation of Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons.

On a proposal of **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Paul McCabe**, the elected members appointed **Councillor Stephen McKee** as Chairperson of the Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise Support and European Affairs SPC.

5.2.4 To appoint a Chairperson to the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC following the resignation of Councillor Damien O'Reilly.

Councillor Conor Tormey was proposed by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**, while **Councillor Edward Fennessy** was proposed by **Councillor Alan Lawes** and seconded by **Councillor Aisling O'Neill**.

On a show of hands vote, with 22 votes for Councillor Tormey, 4 votes for Councillor Fennessy and 1 abstention, **Councillor Conor Tormey** was appointed Chairperson of the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

5.2.5 To appoint a replacement Councillor to the Louth Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB) following the resignation of Councillor Sharon Tolan.

On a proposal by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga**, **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** was appointed to the LMETB Board.

5.3 Planning

5.3.1 To receive a presentation on the Chief Executive's Report to be submitted to the Minister, Office of the Planning Regulator and Councillors, in accordance with Section 31(8) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2021, following the Draft Direction issued to Meath County Council by Minister Peter Burke.

The Chief Executive introduced the report, which had been prepared in accordance with Section 31 of the Acts. Mr Sean Clarke gave a short presentation outlining the key dates and milestones in the process, the number and source of the submissions received by the Council during the consultation process, the aspects that the submissions related to and the recommendation of the Chief Executive. The elected members were informed that any comments they had would be appended to the Report when it is submitted.

There were interventions from **Councillors Nick Killian, Gillian Toole, Michael Gallagher, Joe Bonner and Paddy Meade**. The comments related to lands at Ratoath, Ashbourne and the nodes.

Mr Des Foley, Director of Services and Mr Pdraig Maguire, Senior Planner clarified some points and underlined the purpose of the Report and the process for its submission.

5.3.2 To receive the Chief Executive's Report on the Proposed Extension of the Draft Meath County Development Contribution Scheme 2016-2021 to extend the Scheme by a period of one year with a further additional year extension proposed.

The extension of the scheme was agreed on a proposal of **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden**.

5.3.3 To receive the Member's views in respect of a proposed development by Bracklyn Wind Farm Limited (within the administrative boundary of Co. Meath) Reference no. 311565-21, the subject of the Chief Executive's report to An Bord Pleanála of December 2021 and to resolve to attach recommendations to that report in accordance with Section 37(E) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2021.

Ms. Orla O'Brien, Executive Planner, made a presentation on the proposed development, which addressed the background to the development and the legislative context, the role of the Elected Member in the SID process, an overview and assessment of the proposed development and the next steps in the process.

There were interventions from **Councillors Noel French, Paul McCabe, Michael Gallagher, Aisling O'Neill and Alan Tobin**. Concerns were expressed on the height of the structures, that they were



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

being erected in a flood zone, that they would have a visual impact, which would negatively impact on the character and the natural and cultural heritage of the area and that they would be a disturbance to local residents. There were also comments on the potential over-development of the area in terms of wind farms and the status of the guidelines, which were in draft form. There were also questions on the end-of-life of the scheme, the community gain aspects and the value of commercial rates of the project.

The report was noted by the elected members.

5.4 Finance

5.4.1 To receive Quarterly Financial Statement at 30th September 2021.

The elected members noted the Quarterly Financial Statement.

6 Reports

6.1 Chief Executive's Report

There were interventions from the following elected members: Councillors Nick Killian, Ronan Moore, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan, Paul McCabe and Gerry O'Connor. The issues raised included:

Housing: Purchase of land in Ratoath, Lagore scheme and allocation refusals, Part V for Dunshaughlin, how delayed projects are highlighted in the CE Report, Alverno Court timelines, advance purchase turnkey developments.

Transportation: Donaghmore Embankment works, Harlockstown scheme, Tara Road – ESB connections for public lighting; EV charging points in new car park, Julianstown bridge works and traffic management scheme, risk mitigation footpath works.

Planning: Unauthorised use of short-term rents, number of housing developments not commenced in the county.

Responses were provided by the following Directors of Services: Barry Lynch, Martin Murray and Des Foley.

6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator provided a brief report on the most recent CPG meeting, at which it agreed the arrangements for the Council and Municipal District meetings – the Council meeting in February would be online only, while the MD meetings in December and January would be online only and reviewed at the end of January. The CPG also noted the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC and the recommendation to provide a presentation to all elected members on the Housing for All Action Plan in early 2022.

6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator informed the meeting that the Protocol Committee had noted the workshops on the elected members' new expenses and allowances regimes and raised a number of questions on these. The Committee also consider a draft Training and Development Programme for Elected Members which will be forwarded to the CPG for approval. Finally, the Committee approved



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

two conference for attendance by members in 2022.

7 Correspondence

7.1 LG 04-2021 – Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage re. Increase to Elected Members Annual Remuneration.

Noted by the Elected Members

7.2 LG 05-2021 – Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage re. Allowances and Expenses of Elected Members.

Councillor Nick Killian welcomed that the Council would be holding workshops for elected members on the new allowance schemes and asked that the Meetings Administrator circulate an explanatory note to all elected members which had been prepared by the AILG.

Noted by the Elected Members

7.3 Correspondence from Minister Roderic O’Gorman TD in response to Notice of Motion 9.6 adopted at the October 2021 meeting of the full Council re. request to provide free WIFI throughout Mosney Village, so that it's residents can more readily access information to services.

Noted by the Elected Members

7.4 Correspondence from the National Transport Authority in response to Notice of Motion 9.3 adopted at the November 2021 meeting of the full Council re. introduction of fare free public transport services between Navan and M3 Parkway train station.

Noted by the Elected Members

7.5 Correspondence from the An Taoiseach Micheál Martin in response to Notice of Motion 9.4 adopted at the November 2021 meeting of the full Council re. drafting of a Well-being of Future Generations Act.

Councillor Gillian Toole noted the response but suggested that as a country we needed to be proactive on such matters and to have better planning for future generations.

Noted by the Elected Members

7.6 Correspondence from the HSE in response to Notice of Motion 9.5 adopted at the November 2021 meeting of the full Council re. Our Lady’s Hospital, Navan.

Noted by the Elected Members

8 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O’Reilly

“Can the Chief Executive provide details of HAP payments including total amounts in tabular format for the last 5 years per municipal district, for local authority housing applicants waiting on housing offers within the county?”



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Response

The total payments made in respect of Meath HAP tenancies since 2017 are detailed in the table below. This data has been sourced from the HAP Shared Service (Limerick City & County Council). A breakdown per Municipal District is not available.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (YTD)
Co. Meath	€8,890,033	€16,128,300	€21,352,114	€24,821,153	€24,132,251
No. of Active HAP Tenancies as at 31/12	1,220	1,740	2,089	2,275	2,139

Councillor Damien O'Reilly wished to thank Mr David Jones for the response and for his work in Meath County Council's Housing Department in recent years and wished him well for the future.

The response was noted by the Elected Members

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Ronan Moore

"To ask the Council to provide in tabular form the number of properties investigated for the unauthorised use for short-term rent, Airbnb, and holiday home rentals; the number of warning letters to property owners in regard to the unauthorised use of property for short-term rent, Airbnb, and holiday home rentals; and whether the files related to such properties remain open or closed?"

Response

Below is an extract from the Council's most recent return to the Dept. on short term letting:

	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Total since July 2019
1. Number of properties identified as potentially engaging in Short-Term Letting as a result of complaints received from the public	0	0	2
2. Number of properties identified as potentially engaging in Short-Term Letting as a result as proactive investigation by local authority (i.e. other than on foot of complaints received from the public)	0	0	0
3. Total number of properties identified as potentially in breach of STL regulations	0	0	0
4. Number of investigations commenced in respect of the above total*	0	0	2

In summary, the Council received 2 complaints with respect to alleged short term letting and both cases have been resolved.

The response was noted by the Elected Members

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Paul McCabe

"To ask Meath County Council the number of Nutrient Management Plans that have been submitted to the Environment Department for the past 5 years under the Waste Management (Use of Sewage Sludge in Agriculture) Regulations, 1998 and the Waste Management (Use of Sewage Sludge in Agriculture) Regulations, 2001 (spreading of sewerage sludge on land) and that Meath County Council details in tabular form, in the case of every Nutrient Management Plan submitted, the county of origin of the sludge?"



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Response

Local Authorities are obliged to keep a 'Sludge Register in accordance with S.I. No. 148/1998 - Waste Management (Use of Sewage Sludge in Agriculture) Regulations, 1998 and based on information contained in the Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs). The Regulations specify the information to be contained in the Register and including quantities of sludge produced, the composition and properties of the sludge, the treatment which the sludge has undergone, and the name and address of each recipient of the sludge & where it is to be used.

The following Table sets out the volume of NMPs received between 2016 & 2020 and the Counties of origin:

Year	No. NMPs received by MCC	County of Origin
2016	43	Cavan, Clare, Dublin, Kildare, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Roscommon, Sligo
2017	53	Cavan, Dublin, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan
2018	31	Cavan, Dublin, Kildare, Louth, Meath, Monaghan, Sligo
2019	23	Cavan, Dublin, Kildare, Limerick, Louth, Meath, Sligo
2020	35	Cavan, Kildare, Limerick, Louth, Meath, Sligo, Westmeath

Councillor Paul McCabe sought clarity as to why Dublin was not on the 2020 list.

The response was noted by the Elected Members

9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Maria Murphy

"We call on Meath County Council to include 'benches' in the type of furniture allowed in Section 254 Licences for outdoor dining street furniture."

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

As per Section 254 (5) of the Planning Act, in considering an application for a licence under this section the planning authority, shall have regard to:

- The proper planning and sustainable development of the area;
- Any relevant provisions of the development plan, or a local area plan;
- The number and location of existing appliances, apparatuses or structures on, under, over or along the public road, and o the convenience and safety of road users including pedestrians;
- Relevant apparatus standards, the impacts on pedestrians, the impacts on residential amenity including those arising from noise impacts and hours of operation, the implications for traffic management, potential impact on Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) and Protected Structures.

The suitability of the type of street furniture proposed is therefore assessed against the aforementioned criteria on a case by case basis.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

In certain settings and in particular in Architectural Conservation Areas, historic town cores, or in close proximity to Protected Structures, the use of picnic benches would not contribute positively to the streetscape and the applicant in such instances is conditioned to use alternative furniture. The Planning Authority are also cognisant of the significant financial outlay in terms of public realm improvements throughout the County and the need to ensure that outdoor dining proposals do not detract from said interventions.

This aforementioned approach is considered appropriate and compliant with the provisions of Section 254(5) referenced above.

Councillor Maria Murphy outlined her reasoning for tabling the motion and considered that there was an anomaly in the scheme in relation to the type of furniture that was eligible. There were supporting interventions from **Councillor Paddy Meade and Alan Tobin**.

Mr Martin Murray, Director of Services, provided information on the scheme and explained that the criteria for the scheme are set by the Department and that the Council administer the scheme under Section 254 of the Planning and Development Acts. He suggested that the Council could address the matter directly by writing to the Department. On the basis of this suggestion, Councillor Murphy proposed to withdraw her motion, which was agreed by the Elected Members.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

“To call on Meath County Council to provide appropriate Active Travel Infrastructure as part of all new roads and all road improvement schemes throughout the urban areas of Meath and to ensure that all such Active Travel Infrastructure is designed and installed in compliance with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and in compliance with Best Practice.”

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

Meath County Council, in conjunction with the National Transport Authority, seeks to include Active Travel Measures in all appropriate road development and improvement schemes. Transport Infrastructure Ireland has also adopted a policy that requires walking and cycling measures to be incorporated in schemes going forward.

Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 has made specific provision for this measure in section 5.7.3 MOV OBJ 3: “to ensure that design for cycle infrastructure for all relevant developments shall be carried out in accordance with the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan, other relevant design standards or any successors to these documents”; and section 5.6.2: key principles underlying future investment in land networks - ‘inclusion of measures to improve the efficiency and sustainability of urban transport including improved and expanded public transport; capacity and walking and cycling infrastructure, improved traffic management and bus priority; and better use of Intelligent Transport Systems, where appropriate.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

This motion was dealt with during the discussion with Ms Anne Graham, Chief Executive Officer of the National Transportation Authority. Councillor Tóibín outlined the rationale and objective of her motion. The motion, and supporting information, proposed by **Councillor Emer Tóibín** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole** was agreed.

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Paul McCabe

"That Meath County Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage seeking that the current criteria in respect of the Tenant Purchase Scheme (Housing (Sale of Local Authority Houses) Regulations 2015) be reviewed to allow pensioners to purchase their local authority home in cases where they can reasonably demonstrate that they have the means and resources to do so."

Councillor Paul McCabe introduced his motion, setting out the background and reasoning for it. There was support for the motion expressed by **Councillors Paddy Meade, Alan Tobin and Maria Murphy**, while **Councillors Aisling O'Neill and Alan Lawes** spoke against the motion arguing that the Council needs to retain its social housing stock and there was no threat to tenants losing their home under the current scheme. The motion, proposed by **Councillor Paul McCabe** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray**, was agreed on a show of hand vote with 19 members in agreement, 3 member not in agreement and 1 abstention.

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"That Meath County Council writes to the Minister for Transport, NTA and Irish Rail requesting: Immediate resumption of full operations from M3 Parkway and Dunboyne Train Stations; the immediate reinstatement of free parking at Dunboyne Train Station; and that synergies in operating times be created between the M3 Parkway / Maynooth line trains arriving at Broombridge and departing Luas services."

This motion was dealt with during the discussion with Ms Anne Graham, Chief Executive Officer of the National Transportation Authority. Councillor O'Reilly outlined the rationale and objective of his motion. The motion proposed by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** was agreed.

9.5 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

"Meath County Council calls on the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, and COMREG to introduce legislation and measures to address the serious issue of spam calls and texts. Based on international approaches to this problem the Council highlights the following for consideration: (1) Comreg working with Operators to put measures in place to prevent RoboCalls - Measures such as Enhanced Caller ID, Network level validation and blocklist databases; (2) Measures to combat Robotexts such as filtering malicious phishing texts with links (URLs); (3) Appropriate legislation and registration of all phone numbers to deter the easy barrier of entry that currently exists and penalties for breaches; (4) Enhanced control for customers, for example, easier steps to block calls from geographical locations. These suggested measures are to help reverse the trend in



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

bogus calls, extortion and criminal activity with enhanced caller identification and the ability for the customer to block all calls from certain countries if desired.”

In introducing his motion **Councillor Alan Tobin** acknowledged the assistance he had received from Councillor Golden in the drafting process. He outlined the impacts that scams have had in 2021 alone and the various types of scams that are perpetrated on innocent people. He considered that mobile phone operators could do more to prevent scamming and cited good practice by other operators. The motion, proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden**, was agreed. Councillor Tobin asked that the motion be circulated to other local authorities for information.

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 Alan Lawes referred to his emergency motion that he submitted in advance of the meeting and accepted the response of the Meetings Administrator and An Cathaoirleach. He outlined his reasoning for his motion and asked that elected members write to the Minister for Health asking that the new measures placed on travellers entering the country also apply to staff and visitors entering hospitals and care homes.

An Cathaoirleach advised that the motion would be on the agenda for the next scheduled Council meeting.

An Cathaoirleach thanked all staff for their work in 2021, which he stated had been a difficult year. He paid particular praise to those that would have to work over the Christmas period, such as the Fire and Rescue Service and the Civil Defence and wished everybody a happy, peaceful and safe Christmas and best wishes for the new year.