



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

### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 @ 1.30p.m.***

***Solstice Theatre, Navan (and online via zoom)***

#### **Presiding**

Councillor Sean Drew, Cathaoirleach

#### **Councillors Present:**

Councillors Yemi Adenuga, Joseph Bonner, Mike Bray, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Joe Fox, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Wayne Harding, Nick Killian, Alan Lawes, Paul McCabe, Stephen McKee, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Aisling O'Neill, Tommy Reilly, Amanda Smith, Alan Tobin, Gillian Toole.

#### **Councillors Present via Zoom:**

Councillors Tom Behan, Aisling Dempsey, Noel French, Deirdre Geraghty-Smith, Trevor Golden, Suzanne Jamal, Geraldine Keogan, Elaine McGinty, Paddy Meade, Ronan Moore, Damien O'Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Emer Toibin, Sharon Tolan, Conor Tormey.

#### **Apologies:**

Councillors Brian Fitzgerald, Niamh Souhan

#### **Officials in attendance:**

**Chief Executive:** Jackie Maguire

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

**Meetings Administrator:** Elaine Daly

**Senior Executive Officer:** Fiona Fallon

At the commencement of the meeting **Councillor Lawes** queried why the emergency motion he submitted the previous Friday had not been included on the Council Agenda. **An Cathaoirleach** advised him that the motion did not comply with the requirements of the standing orders and therefore wasn't added onto the Agenda.

### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

#### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 4th April 2022.**

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Wayne Harding**.

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



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

**Councillor Lawes** queried whether correspondence had issued to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and he was advised that this had been done.

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

Sympathy was extended to:

- Sheila Harkin, Finance on the death of her father, Michael Tuite.
- Padraig McDonnell, Housing on the death of his sister, Martina Dyas.
- The family of the late Honora Campbell, former employee.
- Jackie Murray, Housing on the death of her father, Joseph P. (Jackie) Murray.
- Kevin Casserly, Kells MD on the death of his brother John (Johnny) Casserly, former employee.
- Kieran Cunningham, Environment on the death of his father, Tom Cunningham.
- Jimmy Tallon, on the death of his mother, Annie Tallon.
- The family of the late Billy Growney
- The family of the late Dean Craughan
- The family of the late Paul Lallaway
- The family of the late Zak Moran
- The family of the late Eddie Grennan
- The family of the late Kevin Murtagh

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

### **5 Statutory Business**

#### **5.1 Finance**

##### **5.1.1 To receive the Draft Annual Financial Statement 2021.**

**An Cathaoirleach** welcomed Ms. Margaret Clarke, new Financial Management Accountant to the Finance Team.

The Draft Annual Financial Statement for 2021 was introduced by the Chief Executive. She acknowledged the surplus at the end of year and noted the economic uncertainties for the future. She further recommended that the members approve the revised expenditure for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 and approve the transfers to and from Capital as set out in 5.1.2 of the agenda.

Ms. Sheila Harkin, Financial and Management Accountant presented the Draft Annual Financial Statement 2021. The meeting received a presentation that set out the Council's income and expenditure for 2021 and provided an overview of the key financial aspects from the year which included the value of the Council's Fixed Assets at year end and trends in debt. collection figures.



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

There were interventions from **Councillors Damien O'Reilly; Gerry O'Connor; David Gilroy; Mike Bray; Michael Gallagher** and **An Cathaoirleach**. The members congratulated the staff of the Council and acknowledged the supports provided by Government. Responses to queries raised were provided by Ms. Fiona Lawless and the Chief Executive.

### **5.1.2 To approve (i) revised expenditure for the financial year ended 31st December 2021 as set out in Table A in accordance with S104 of the Local Government Act 2001 and (ii) transfers to and from Capital as set out in Table B.**

The revised expenditure for the financial year ended 31st December 2021 as set out in Table A, in accordance with S104 of the Local Government Act 2001 was approved on a proposal of **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Fox**.

The transfers to and from Capital as set out in Table B was approved on a proposal of **Councillor Mike Bray** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**

## **5.2 Community**

### **5.2.1 To receive a presentation from Cultúr Migrant Centre**

**An Cathaoirleach** welcomed Tinu and the members from Cultúr Migrant Centre, to the meeting. The Members were given a very comprehensive presentation on the work undertaken by Cultúr Migrant Centre which included details of supports provided of ethnic minority groups, asylum seekers and refugees. Details of the training provided to Gardai, library staff and schools in matters relating to social inclusion and barriers to participation were also outlined. The difficulties encountered by the migrant centre were noted, in particular in terms of funding and the variances in the statutory supports provided to different ethnic minority groups and asylum seekers.

There were interventions from **Councillors Nick Killian; Alan Lawes; Emer Tóibín; Sarah Reilly; Maria Murphy; Yemi Adenuga; Aisling O'Neill; Alan Tobin** and **An Cathaoirleach**. The members acknowledged the volume of work being undertaken by Cultúr Migrant Centre to support migrant communities. Responses to queries raised were responded to by Tinu.

### **5.2.2 To receive details and approve the allocations under the Community Grants Scheme 2022, as recommended by the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022.**

There were interventions from **Councillors Ronan Moore; Nick Killian; Alan Tobin; Gillian Toole** and **Mike Bray**. Queries were responded to by Ms. Fiona Fallon.

The allocation under the Community Grants Scheme 2022 was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**.

### **5.2.3 To receive details and approve the allocations under the Regional Festivals and Participative Events – Small Grants Scheme in Co. Meath as recommended by the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022.**



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

Approved on a proposal of **Councillor Noel French** and seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy**

### **5.2.4 To consider Arts Grants, Bursaries & Awards Spring 2022 recommendations.**

Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Maria Murphy** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

## **6 Reports**

### **6.1 Chief Executive's Report**

There were comments and clarifications sought by **Councillors Nick Killian; Alan Tobin; Maria Murphy; Aisling O'Neill** and **Gillian Toole** on a number of matters in the Report. The main issues focused on:

Housing	Increase in Housing Adpatation Grants due to increases in building costs, purchase of land for social housing, impact of increased building costs on housing developers and social housing projects, delays in social housing construction works
Transportation	Location of bus shelters
Emergency Planning	Discussion at national level regarding threat of nuclear war
Planning	Funding for rural nodes programme

Responses and clarifications were provided, on the issues raised, by the Chief Executive, Barry Lynch and Martin Murray.

### **6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group**

The Meetings Administrator reported that the CPG met on Friday May 6, 2022. She noted that the CPG were provided with an update on the Council's support to IPAS for Ukrainian refugees.

She advised that the reports from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC and the Transportation SPC were noted by the CPG. She further advised that the recommendation from the Housing SPC to approve the Community Grants Scheme Allocation for 2022 and the Regional Festival and Participative Events Grant Allocation for 2022 were also noted by the CPG.

### **6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee**

The Meetings Administrator reported that the Protocol Committee met on Monday May 9, 2022. She noted that it had been agreed that the Council AGM and Budget meetings would be held in person only.

She further advised the members that the Protocol Committee had considered a motion from Councillor Alan Tobin in relation to council events to celebrate Ukrainian Independence Day and it was agreed that one event would be held on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022.



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

It was agreed that the MD awards would take place on one evening in Buvinda. Mr. Martin Murray advised the members of an upcoming educational trip to Denmark which is being funded by the NTA.

### **7 Correspondence**

7.1 Correspondence from Mr. Peter Burke T.D., Minister for Planning and Local Government in response to Notice of Motion 9.3 adopted at the March 2022 meeting of the full Council re. review of the National Planning Framework.

Noted by the Elected Members.

7.2 Correspondence from Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in response to Notice of Motion 9.1 adopted at the April 2022 meeting of the full Council re. rural nodes.

Noted by the Elected Members.

7.3 Correspondence from the Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation in response to Notice of Motion 10.1 adopted at the April 2022 meeting of the full Council re. respite services.

There were interventions from **Councillors Gillian Toole; Nick Killian and Sarah Reilly**. The urgent need for a respite centre in the county was acknowledged.

7.4 Circular LG 03/2022 – Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage re. Attendance requirements for elected members.

Noted by the Elected Members.

7.5 Correspondence from Irish Water following request from members of Meath Co. Council to attend the May Full Council meeting.

Noted by the Elected Members.

7.6 Correspondence from the Regional Waste Management Plan Office re. preparation of New National Waste Management Plan.

Noted by the Elected Members.

### **8 Notice of Question**

#### **8.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Lawes**

*“How many families are on the waiting list and what is the average waiting time for emergency accommodation in Fr Mc Verry's HUB on Flower Hill?”*

#### **Response**

The table below shows the total number of applicants on the housing waiting list at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.



## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

	Gross Need	HAP	Transfers	Net Need
<b>TOTAL</b>	3881	1992	280	1609

Regarding the Family Hub, it is difficult to put a specific waiting time on entry into the family hub as it is dependent on appropriate exit solutions available to those currently occupying the rooms. Families currently placed in the Hub were placed in emergency accommodation for an average of 8 weeks prior to entering the Hub.

Entry into Family Hub is managed by the Settlement Officers who nominate the next family to enter based on the specific circumstances of each family and the supports which may be required relative to their needs. Families are supported to exit through HAP, Place finders service and choice-based lettings.

**Councillor Lawes** sought clarification on the references to gross housing need and net housing need, details of which were provided by Mr. Barry Lynch.

### 8.2 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

*“To ask Meath County Council what the number of presentations for homelessness to the Housing (Settlement) Officers is this year to date and how this number compares to the last 4 years.”*

#### Response

The number of presentations for homeless services at the end of Q1 2022 is 137. For the same period for the past 4 years

Q1 2022:	137
Q1 2021:	124
Q1 2020:	164
Q1 2019:	139
Q1 2018:	121

Noted by the Elected Members.

## 9 Notice of Motion

### 9.1 Submitted by Councillor Noel French



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

*“That Meath County Council install a bike for hire scheme in major towns and visitor attractions throughout the county and commence a pilot project at Trim and at the Royal Canal.”*

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

Meath County Council is committed to the promotion of active travel measures of which cycling, and the promotion of cycling in place of other forms of transport, is a key part. In this regard, the Council’s Active Travel Section is currently exploring all options and mechanisms, including reviewing best practice nationally and internationally, to facilitate and encourage cycling in Co. Meath. It is intended that such measures would include piloting a number of ‘bike for hire’ schemes at suitable locations in the county. Further details on same will be made available in due course.

The motion was introduced by **Councillor Noel French**. There were a number of interventions in support of the motion from **Councillors Yemi Adenuga; Alan Tobin and David Gilroy**. Responses to queries raised were provided by Mr. Martin Murray. The motion, including supporting information, was proposed by **Councillor Noel French**, seconded by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga** and agreed.

### **9.2 Submitted by Councillor Yemi Adenuga**

*“In line with provisions in the Joint Louth Meath Integration strategy, and to further equip elected councillors in Meath with the required knowledge and skills to support long-resident and newly arrived migrants in the county with their varied request for representation, I call on Meath County Council:*

- a) To forward soft copy of the Joint Louth Meath Integration Strategy to all 40 elected representatives in Meath County Council.*
- b) To expedite action on the delivery of stakeholders’ training to all elected representatives in Meath on topics highlighted in the Integration Strategy such as Diversity, Integration and Racism.”*

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

A presentation on the details of the Joint Louth Meath Migrant Integration Strategy was presented to the Elected Members at their October 2020 meeting. Details of the Strategy can be found on Meath County Council’s website and the link will be circulated electronically to all elected members.

A number of online training sessions were delivered to staff within Meath County Council during 2021 by the Immigrant Council of Ireland. It is proposed to deliver further training sessions during 2022 and a specific training session will be arranged for the Elected Members to attend. This will deliver on Action 5.3 of the Strategy “Work with the Irish Equality and Human Rights Commission (IEHRC) to ensure the delivery of training programmes to local politicians on racism, discrimination and rights



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

and engage with them to explore how to continue to give leadership around diversity and interculturalism and give priority to political, economic and social inclusion in decision making.

The motion was introduced by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga**. **Councillor Alan Tobin** expressed his support of the motion.

The motion, including supporting information, was proposed by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga**, seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and agreed.

### **9.3 Submitted by Councillor Yemi Adenuga**

*“In actioning the Motion on Period poverty passed exactly a year, I call on Meath County Council to pro-actively engage with Retail supermarkets in Meath and collaborate/partner with them to facilitate the provision of a range of free, adequate, safe and suitable sanitary products on all public buildings and council in Meath.”*

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

The Council is in the process of entering into an agreement with the Dept. of Health as part of the Healthy Ireland Programme to pilot a Period Poverty Project. The Council has identified 10 locations across the county which will meet the pilot scheme criteria, including libraries, civic offices and a resource centre.

The motion was introduced by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga**. **Councillor Adenuga** acknowledged the response provided by the Executive and noted that the pilot should proceed, though she had concerns regarding the project once the pilot had ceased. There were a number of interventions from **Councillors Noel French and Gillian Toole**. Clarifications were provided by the Chief Executive and Mr. Dara McGowan. **Councillor Gillian Toole** proposed an amendment which was seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and agreed as follows:

*“In actioning the Motion on Period poverty passed exactly a year, I call on Meath County Council to pro-actively engage with retail supermarkets in Meath and other manufacturers to collaborate/partner with them to facilitate the provision of a range of free, adequate, safe and suitable sanitary products in all public buildings and council in Meath.”*

The motion as amended, was proposed by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga**, seconded by **Councillor Noel French** and agreed.

### **9.4 Submitted by Councillor Alan Lawes**

*“I am calling on Meath County Council to make an equal effort to help all vulnerable homeless people whether they be from Ukraine, Ireland or anywhere else.*





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

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

Refugees from Ukraine have come to Ireland under the EU Temporary Protection Directive and as such do not avail of Meath Council Council's Housing Services. Responsibility for sourcing accommodation for the refugees lies with the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS), which comes under the remit of the Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. The Council has been providing assistance to IPAS in the sourcing of accommodation within the county on a temporary basis through the Council's Emergency Rest Centre at Mullaghboy, Navan.

The motion was introduced by **Councillor Alan Lawes**. There were a number of interventions and queries from **Councillors Michael Gallagher; Gillian Toole** and **Aisling O'Neill**. Responses to queries raised were provided by Mr. Barry Lynch, Mr. Dara McGowan and the Chief Executive. **An Cathaoirleach** acknowledged and thanked the staff of the Council and the volunteers of Meath Civil Defence for all of the work being done in assisting Ukrainian refugees in the county.

The motion, including supporting information, was proposed by **Councillor Alan Lawes**, seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and agreed.

### **10 General Interest Motions**

#### **10.1 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

*"That this council calls on the Government and Minister of Social Protection to introduce a pilot scheme for artists with disabilities, to co-exist for the duration of the Basic Income for Artists pilot scheme, which would remove the weekly earnings limit & means test from those in receipt of disability supports."*

The motion was introduced by **Councillor Alan Tobin**. There were interventions from **Councillors Nick Killian** and **Maria Murphy**.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin**, seconded by **Councillor Maria Murphy** and agreed.

#### **10.2 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

*"To write to the Minister and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to request An Bord Pleanála to prioritise decisions on all appeals regarding renewable power generation on solar and wind generation applications to help speed up our transition to energy independence during this energy crisis. Currently all decisions are taking at least 6 months instead of the normal 3 months."*



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

The motion was introduced by **Councillor Alan Tobin**. There were interventions supporting the motion from **Councillors Aisling O'Neill; Nick Killian; Joe Fox;** and **Gillian Toole**. **Councillor Michael Gallagher** expressed his opposition to solar and wind farms.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin**, seconded by **Councillor Aisling O'Neill** and agreed.

### **10.3 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher**

*“That Meath County Council call on the Office of Public Works to carry out the necessary excavation works to recover the remains of Joe Brady, Michael Curley, Michael Fagan, Thomas Caffery Tim and Tim Kelly, in what is commonly known as the Invincibles Yard in Killmainham Goal and to have them reinterred in consecrated grounds at Glasnevin Cemetery.*

The motion was introduced by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**. **Councillor Ashling O'Neill** spoke in favour of the motion. **Councillor Maria Murphy** spoke in dissent of the motion. **Councillor Paul McCabe** proposed an addendum to the motion however this was not permitted in accordance with section 13.5 of the Standing Orders.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Ashling O'Neill** was voted on a show of hands vote with 13 members in agreement, 1 member in disagreement and 8 members abstained. The motion was therefore approved.

### **11 Schedule of Chief Executive & Approved Orders (For Information Only)**

Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Transportation

Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Environment

Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Housing

Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Community & Enterprise

Noted by the Elected Members

### **12 Any Other Business**

**Councillor Noel French** expressed his disappointment that Irish Water would not attend the Council meeting.



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

**Councillor Nick Killian** requested that the members complete the AILG survey regarding the future role of Councillors and noted that Meath Councillors were one of the lowest respondents. **Councillor Joe Fox** supported the matter.

**Councillor Nick Killian** further advised the members that at the recent AILG planning forum a proposal was put forward that County Development Plans be reviewed every 10 years.

**Councillor Gillian Toole** raised a query in relation to the AFS with response provided by Ms. Fiona Lawless.

The meeting concluded at 5.30pm