



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

4th July 2022 @ 1.30p.m.

Solstice Theatre, Navan (and online via zoom)

Presiding

Councillor Nick Killian, Cathaoirleach

Councillors Present:

Councillors Joseph Bonner, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Aisling Dempsey, Sean Drew, Brian Fitzgerald, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Joe Fox, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Wayne Harding, Alan Lawes, Paul McCabe, Paddy Meade, Gerry O'Connor, Tommy Reilly, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole.

Councillors Present via Zoom:

Councillors Yemi Adenuga, Tom Behan, Mike Bray, Eddie Fennessy, Noel French, Trevor Golden, Suzanne Jamal, Geraldine Keogan, Elaine McGinty, Stephen McKee, Ronan Moore, Maria Murphy, Damien O'Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Alan Tobin, Conor Tormey.

Apologies:

Councillors Deirdre Geraghty-Smith, Aisling O'Neill, Amanda Smith, Niamh Souhan, Emer Tóibín.

Officials in attendance:

Acting Chief Executive: Barry Lynch

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

Meetings Administrator: Robert Collins

Senior Executive Officer: Brian Hora, Larry Whelan, Fiona Fallon, Sean Clarke

Senior Planner: Pdraig Maguire

Law Agent: Rory McEntee

Apologies:

Ms Jackie Maguire, Chief Executive

Ms Elaine Daly, Meetings Administrator

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Annual meeting held on 13th June 2022.

The minutes of the Annual meeting held on 13th June 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 13th June 2022.

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 13th June 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Paul McCabe** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor**.



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2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Gillian Toole asked if a response had been received from Minister Donnelly in response to items 10.2 and 10.3 and if any correspondence was forthcoming from the Office of the Planning Regulator following a matter raised under Any Other Business of the June Council meeting. Mr Dara McGowan and Mr Des Foley provided responses.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Cllr. Conor Tormey on the death of his father, Joey Tormey.
- Ciarán Mangan, County Librarian on the death of his sister, Máire Mangan.
- The family of the late Jack Oliver, Co. Derry, who lost his life at Kells Road Races.
- The family of Liam Cahill, former political correspondent

Councillor Conor Tormey thanked his colleagues and officials for the messages of support that he had received following the recent death of his father.

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 0.8261Ha of land at Kildalkey Road, Athboy, 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.

In advance of this item being considered, **Councillor David Gilroy** declared a potential or perceived conflict of interest because of his association with the local group connected with the disposal. In accordance with the Ethical Framework of the Local Government Act, Councillor Gilroy then absented himself from the meeting.

The disposal, in accordance with the statutory notice issued on June 22, 2022, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Paddy Meade** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

Following this decision, Councillor Gilroy returned to the meeting.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Planning

5.1.1 To approve the proposed resolution of Judicial Review proceedings of Dolent Properties LP together with Remcoll Capital Limited and Meath County Council – High Court Record No.2021/970 pursuant to Section 153(2) of the Local Government Act 2001.

The Council's Law Agent, Mr Rory McEntee provided the meeting with an overview of the state-of-play regarding the five judicial reviews that were lodged in relation to the County Development Plan 2021-2027. These were as follows:



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Killegland Estates Limited: Judgement has issued, the challenge has been dismissed and the judgement has held in favour of the Council.

McGarrell Reilly Homes Ltd & Alcove Ireland Eight Ltd: Judgement has issued, the challenge has been dismissed and the judgement has held in favour of the Council.

Hickwell Ltd & Hickcastle Ltd: No formal judgement yet but the judge has given a preliminary indication that he is going to hold in favour of the Council on a number of issues but against the Council regarding the actual process and the level of engagement with the landowner. There will be an up-date on this (and the other two applications above) on July 11th.

Protect East Meath: Partial judgement in favour of the Council in terms of the environmental assessments. The zoning issue in the southern environs of Drogheda has not yet been heard, as the judge held that landowners were not joined as notice parties and he has directed the applicants to notify the landowners, with a notice to be published in the newspaper in this regard. This case has been adjourned until July 18th.

Dolent Properties LP: There is a proposed agreement between the Council and the applicant. There are flood related issues affecting the site, which are currently the subject of OPW remediation works and nearing completion. These works may remove the flooding issue on this site. It is proposed to adjourn the case and that the applicant will make a new planning application when the OPW scheme is complete and verified. If there is a recommendation to grant the application, arising from the planning process, then the matter will be the subject of a material contravention of the County Development Plan which will come back to the full Council for consideration.

A number of elected members sought clarity on the up-date given, potential implications and the associated costs, including **Councillors Alan Tobin; Sharon Tolan; Paul McCabe; Sean Drew; Joe Bonner; Gillian Toole; Tommy Reilly; Paddy Meade; Joe Fox; Brian Fitzgerald; Gerry O'Connor; Ronan Moore; Alan Lawes; Eugene Cassidy and An Cathaoirleach**. Clarifications and responses were provided by Mr Rory McEntee and Mr Des Foley.

Further in response, Mr Des Foley outlined in specific terms what the elected members were being asked to do. He reminded the meeting that the elected members had, at a recent Special Council Meeting, given the Chief Executive express authority to defend the five judicial reviews that had been lodged against the Council. Each judicial review has its own specificities and has been dealt with individually. The Council Executive is now coming back to the elected members, as there is a proposed settlement on one of the cases (Dolent Properties), in order to gain the express authority to settle this case out of court. If such authority is not forthcoming, then the case would be heard before the court.



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On a proposal by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly** the approval of the proposed resolution of Judicial Review proceedings of Dolent Properties LP together with Remcoll Capital Limited and Meath County Council in the terms outlined was put to a roll call vote as follows:

	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
ADENUGA, Yemi	X			
BEHAN, Tom	X			
BONNER, Joseph			X	
BRAY, Mike				X
CASSIDY, Eugene	X			
DEANE, Francis	X			
DEMPSEY, Aisling	X			
DREW, Sean	X			
FENNESSY, Eddie	X			
FITZGERALD, Brian	X			
FITZSIMONS, Pdraig	X			
FOX, Joe	X			
FRENCH, Noel	X			
GALLAGHER, Michael	X			
GERAGHTY-SMITH, Deirdre				X
GILROY, David	X			
GOLDEN, Trevor	X			
HARDING, Wayne	X			
JAMAL, Suzanne	X			
KEOGAN, Geraldine	X			
KILLIAN, Nick	X			
LAWES, Alan			X	
MC CABE, Paul	X			
MC GINTY, Elaine	X			
MC KEE, Stephen	X			
MEADE, Paddy			X	
MOORE, Ronan			X	
MURPHY, Maria	X			
O'CONNOR, Gerry	X			
O'NEILL, Aisling				X
O'REILLY, Damien	X			
REILLY, Sarah	X			
REILLY, Tommy	X			
SMITH, Amanda				X
SOUHAN, Niamh				X
TOBIN, Alan			X	
TÓIBÍN, Emer				X
TOLAN, Sharon	X			
TOOLE, Gillian		X		



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TORMEY, Conor				X
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Votes For = 27 members, Against = 1, Abstain = 5, Absent = 7. In accordance with this decision, the proposal to seek a resolution of Judicial Review proceedings of Dolent Properties LP together with Remcoll Capital Limited and Meath County Council was approved.

5.2 Community

5.2.1 To receive details and approve the allocations under round 2 of Community Grants Scheme 2022, as recommended by the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC on 28th June 2022.

The allocations were approved unanimously on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons**.

5.2.2 To approve the allocation under the Carranstown Environmental Projects Grants Scheme 2021, as recommended by the Indaver Community Liaison Committee on 17th June 2022 and endorsed by the Laytown/Bettystown Municipal District Councillors on 20th June 2022.

The allocations were approved unanimously on the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**.

5.2.3 To enter into an agreement with Louth County Council pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001, whereby Meath County Council will exercise the statutory powers, functions and duties of Louth County Council in relation to the construction of a combined walkway/cycleway located along L-16014-0 Rathmullan to Boyne Greenway which is displayed in the Schedule to the Agreement.

The Section 85 Agreement was approved unanimously on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**.

5.3 Housing

5.3.1 To receive a presentation on the Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026 as previously presented to the Housing SPC on 28th June 2022.

Mr Brian Hora, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Department, made a presentation on the Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP), which set out the timelines within which the Plan was developed, the various components of the Plan, the housing demand and targets, how the HDAP would be delivered across the municipal districts and key cohorts to be addressed by the Plan, including disabled people; homeless, travellers and rightsizing for older persons.

A significant number of elected members spoke in response to the presentation and sought clarification on various aspects. These included **Councillors Ronan Moore; Damien O'Reilly; Aisling Dempsey; Michael Gallagher; Gerry O'Connor; Paddy Meade; Alan Tobin; Maria Murphy; Gillian Toole; Sean Drew; Paul McCabe; Brian Fitzgerald; Elaine McGinty; Joe Fox and An Cathaoirleach.**



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Issues raised included: catering for disabled people; housing targets; Anti-social behaviour; use of landbanks; Choice Based Lettings; direct construction; net need in terms of HAP and Social Housing demand; use of Part V units and their location within developments; need for the Council to buy land and the nature/zoning of the lands; and serviced sites outside of main settlements. Some members considered that the HDAP lacked ambition and did not embrace the spirit of the Housing For All strategy, while others expressed frustration that the report was for noting rather than discussion/adoption.

Responses were provided by Mr Brian Hora and Mr Barry Lynch who outlined the rationale for the Plan, the fact that the Council has opted for higher targets than those established by the Department and that the Council's Housing Department has ambition to meet the housing need in the county and that the HDAP is a starting point in this regard and not a static document.

The report was noted by the Elected Members.

6 Reports

6.1 Chief Executive's Report

There were interventions from the following elected members: **Councillors Edward Fennessy; Alan Tobin, Maria Murphy; Paddy Meade and Gillian Toole.** The issues raised included:

Housing: Homeless breakdown by age.

Community: Community grants; BCP promotion and awareness raising; LCDC and LEADER – no quorum meetings.

Environment: Water font in Ashbourne.

Planning: Planning enforcement

Corporate: Civic event for community achievement in all MDs.

Responses were provided and the report was noted by the elected members.

6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator informed the meeting that the CPG met in advance of the Council meeting to review and confirm the agenda. The CPG also agreed the composition of the Council delegation to meet with representatives of the HSE and Navan Hospital to discuss the proposed closure of the hospital's emergency department. The meeting would take place on July 5th at 2pm and the agreed delegation composition was 2 members from FF, FG, Technical Group, SF and the non-aligned members and the Cathaoirleach. This was agreed by the elected members.

The CPG also received an up-date on the Ukrainian Refugee situation; the recent Irish Water Framework Agreement reached in the WRC and the judicial reviews on the County Development Plan. The CPG also received two reports from the Environment and Climate Action SPC and the Housing and Community SPC. An Cathaoirleach highlighted the Irish Water Agreement and what it may mean for



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elected members. The report was noted by the elected members.

6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

There was no report as the Protocol Committee did not meet in July.

7 Correspondence

There were no items of correspondence.

8 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

“To ask Meath County Council if there are any circumstances when a person moving from one county to another (with the aim of fleeing a dreadful domestic situation) can bring their accrued time on the housing waiting list to another county?”

Response

There is no provision to allow a housing applicant carry time accrued on the housing list of one county to that of another.

A household shall be deemed to be entered on a housing authority’s record of qualified households on the date that the housing authority of application determines that the household is qualified for social housing support from that housing authority.

Applicants seeking to apply to another county must also satisfy the assessment criteria set out in the Social Housing Assessment Regulations.

The response was noted by the elected members.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Damien O’Reilly

“I call on Meath County Council to provide, in tabular format, the social housing need for each housing application for every settlement in Meath’s towns, villages and townlands.”

Response

Gross Housing Demand Per First Preference Area Of Choice According To House Type

ASHBOURNE MD					
	NO. OF APPLICANTS	ONE BEDROOM	TWO BEDROOM	THREE BEDROOM	FOUR BEDROOM
Ardcath	5	1	2	2	0
Ashbourne	498	167	229	87	11
Bellewstown	7	2	4	0	1
Julianstown	7	2	5	0	0
Kentstown	30	14	12	3	1



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Kilbride	3	2	0	1	0
Skryne	6	2	2	1	1
Stamullen	19	6	8	4	1
TOTAL	575	196	262	98	15

KELLS MD					
	NO. OF APPLICANTS	ONE BEDROOM	TWO BEDROOM	THREE BEDROOM	FOUR BEDROOM
Athboy	115	55	39	13	6
Carlanstown	38	15	14	8	1
Carnaross	14	5	7	1	1
Cortown	10	5	2	2	1
Crossakiel	8	4	4	0	0
Drumconrath	13	8	4	1	0
Fordstown	1	1	0	0	0
Kells	239	109	90	25	12
Kilberry	6	1	5	0	0
Kilmainhamwood	9	3	5	1	0
Meath Hill	1	1	0	0	0
Moynalty	13	6	6	1	0
Nobber	13	7	4	1	1
Oldcastle	36	25	7	3	1
TOTAL	516	245	187	56	23

LAYTOWN/BETTYSTOWN MD					
	NO. OF APPLICANTS	ONE BEDROOM	TWO BEDROOM	THREE BEDROOM	FOUR BEDROOM
Bettystown	280	118	130	24	7
Donacarney	22	4	12	3	3
Donore	26	11	11	4	0
Drogheda (Meath)	20	5	8	7	0
Duleek	70	30	32	5	3
Grangerath	32	10	16	2	2
Laytown	27	18	5	3	0
Lobinstown	5	1	2	2	0
Mornington	14	3	7	4	0
RathKenny	2	2	0	0	0
Slane	33	12	11	9	1



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TOTAL	531	214	234	63	16

NAVAN MD					
	NO. OF APPLICANTS	ONE BEDROOM	TWO BEDROOM	THREE BEDROOM	FOUR BEDROOM
Bohermeen	9	5	4	0	0
Castletown	9	3	1	3	2
Dunderry	6	2	4	0	0
Navan	1408	607	530	195	67
Robinstown	4	1	1	0	2
TOTAL	1436	618	540	198	71

RATOATH MD					
	NO. OF APPLICANTS	ONE BEDROOM	TWO BEDROOM	THREE BEDROOM	FOUR BEDROOM
Batterstown	10	5	4	1	0
Clonee	62	16	31	13	1
Dunboyne	100	37	38	18	7
Dunsany	12	2	7	2	1
Dunshaughlin	118	56	42	16	4
Kilmessan	18	5	7	3	3
Ratoath	55	22	25	5	3
TOTAL	375	143	154	58	19

TRIM MD					
	NO. OF APPLICANTS	ONE BEDROOM	TWO BEDROOM	THREE BEDROOM	FOUR BEDROOM
Ballinabrackey	1	1	0	0	0
Ballivor	49	15	26	4	3
Clonard	6	2	3	1	0
Enfield	67	29	22	8	8
Kilcock	8	3	4	1	0
Kildalkey	5	1	3	0	1
Longwood	18	3	6	3	5
Rathmolyon	12	5	4	3	0



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Summerhill	26	11	10	4	1
Trim	256	111	103	35	4
TOTAL	448	181	181	59	22

SUMMARY PER MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

	NO. OF APPLICANTS	ONE BEDROOM		TWO BEDROOM		THREE BEDROOM		FOUR BEDROOM	
ASHBOURNE	575	196	34.09%	262	45.57%	98	17.04%	15	2.61%
KELLS	516	245	47.48%	187	36.24%	56	10.85%	23	4.46%
LAYTOWN/ BETTYSTOWN	531	214	40.30%	234	44.07%	63	11.86%	16	3.01%
NAVAN	1436	618	43.04%	540	37.60%	198	13.79%	71	4.94%
RATOATH	375	143	38.13%	154	41.07%	58	15.47%	19	5.07%
TRIM	448	181	40.40%	181	40.40%	59	13.17%	22	4.91%
COUNTY SUMMARY	3881	1597	41.15%	1558	40.14%	532	13.71%	166	4.28%

Councillor Damien O'Reilly requested that the figures for Kilcock be realigned within the Ratoath MD rather than the Trim MD. **Councillor Edward Fennessy** sought clarity on a development in Navan.

Noted by the elected members.

9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole

"Meath County Council Water Services in conjunction with Irish Water, will provide water tankers & high-volume cubes of potable water to areas of Meath, without mains water supply in the event of unscheduled water outages".

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

Irish Water will provide an Alternative Water Supply (AWS), where feasible, when an unscheduled water outage has exceeded 24 hours, as required by the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities. In relation to customers that are registered with Irish Water as vulnerable customers, Irish Water will contact each one directly if the unscheduled water outage is expected to last longer than 4 hours.

Councillor Gillian Toole introduced her motion, setting out the current situation regarding water supply from the Staleen treatment plant and the risks posed to vulnerable users and large sections of



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the county. She asked that Irish Water change its approach in order to meet customer expectations and requirements. A number of elected members spoke in favour of the motion and highlighted other similar situations and areas where improvements were required. These included: **Councillors Paddy Meade; Damien O'Reilly; Maria Murphy; Elaine McGinty; An Cathaoirleach and Joe Bonner.**

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Paddy Meade**, was agreed. It was also agreed to forward the motion to the AILG for consideration.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, requesting that the Department extends the period of extension of time / duration, for previously granted, one off rural planning permissions for an additional 5 year extension of duration."

This notice of motion was deferred until the September meeting.

10 General Interest Motions

10.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly

"I call on Meath County Council to write to the Minister for Climate Action, Communications and Transport, National Transport Authority and Irish Rail requesting the reinstatement of free parking at Dunboyne train station."

Councillor Damien O'Reilly introduced his motion, highlighting that the introduction of fees at the car park had resulted in significant under-usage of the facility – 11 cars using it (on July 4th), with a capacity for 150 vehicles. A number of other members spoke in favour of the motion and highlighted a number of other related issues in Dunboyne station and other rail stations across the county. Other issues were raised in terms of rail fares, ticketing, marketing the service, the need for inter-agency and joined-up thinking and the request to meet with the Minister for Transport to discuss these concerns in more depth. Contributions were made by **Councillors: Sharon Tolan; Joe Fox; Maria Murphy; Gillian Toole; Noel French; Elaine McGinty; and Gerry O'Connor.**

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Damien O'Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Tolan**, was agreed. It was further agreed to write to the Minister and invite him to meet with the Council to discuss the motion and the other issues raised.

10.2 Submitted by Councillor Ronan Moore

"That Meath County Council writes to the Taoiseach, the Minister of State for Local Government, and the Minister of State for Electoral Reform requesting that legislated candidate gender quotas of 40% be introduced to apply to the local elections in 2024".



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Councillor Ronan Moore introduced his motion, which had at its core the ambition to have greater and fairer representation of women in politics through to use of a quota system which had been established for general elections but not for local elections. There were interventions from a number of members including **Councillors Elaine McGinty; Maria Murphy; Aisling Dempsey; Sharon Tolan; Gerry O'Connor; David Gilroy; and Gillian Toole**. While there was support for the motion, it was considered that the quota approach was a blunt instrument and that it had a narrow focus, as other issues should also be considered in terms of achieving greater female participation in politics. Views were also expressed on the merits of the Women's Caucus discussing the motion before a final decision be taken on it.

It was agreed that the motion, proposed by **Councillor Ronan Moore** and seconded by **Councillor Joe Bonner**, would be referred to the Women's Caucus for consideration and that a decision on it would be deferred until the September Council meeting.

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

11.1 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Transportation

11.2 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Environment

11.3 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Housing

11.4 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Community & Enterprise

Noted by the Elected Members.

12 Any Other Business

There was none. The meeting concluded at 5.45pm.