



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 14th December 2022, Navan Civic Offices

Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons presided.

Councillors Present: Councillors Yemi Adenuga, Alan Lawes, Tommy Reilly, Emer Tóibín.

Councillors Present via Zoom: Councillors Francis Deane and Edward Fennessy.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Martin Murray

Executive Engineer: Shane Durcan

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

As the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were attending via Zoom, it was agreed, on the proposal of Councillor Tommy Reilly and seconded by Councillor Yemi Adenuga, that Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons would chair the meeting.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 23rd November 2022.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 23rd November 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Emer Tóibín queried why there is a reluctance to open the L5050 from Old Johnstown Village to the school campus to alleviate traffic congestion – the preference is the route at Dunville and the opening of a temporary road may cause a delay.



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3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- Audrey Norris, Corporate Affairs and Governance, on the death of her mother, Molly Halligan;
- Owen Heaney on the death of his wife, Rita;
- The family of the late Michelle O'Shea (Flanagan), Simonstown Lane, Navan.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Jackie Kelly, local author, on the launch of her children's book. ✦

4 Disposal of Land pursuant of the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act

Councillor Tommy Reilly declared a potential conflict of interest and left the meeting whilst this item was being dealt with.

4.1 Agreement in principle to dispose, by way of transfer, of land at Preston Place, Navan.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Yemi Adenuga** and seconded by **Councillor Emer Tóibín**.

4.2 Agreement in principle to dispose, by way of transfer, of land in Claremont Estate, Townparks, Navan.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Emer Tóibín**.

Councillor Tommy Reilly rejoined the meeting.

5 Statutory Business



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5.1 Planning

- 5.1.1 To consider taking in charge of the following and the making of a declaration that the roads within the development shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2021

- Athlumney Hall, Navan

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Emer Tóibín**.

- 5.1.2 To receive the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act 2000–2022 and Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001–2022 on the proposed development, Convent Road Filtered Permeability Scheme, Navan, which will consist the following:

- i. The closure of part of Convent Road to vehicular Traffic from the Riverside development to Athlumney Castle (with local access provided)
- ii. Traffic calming on Convent Road in proximity to the entrance of the Loreto Secondary School
- iii. Enhances public lighting
- iv. Provision of CCTV for the purposes of traffic management, public order and safety in public places
- v. Landscaping measures
- vi. Road surfacing, erection of signage
- vii. Ancillary works

Development Location: Athlumney, Navan, Co. Meath (P822014).

Paul O'Brien, Executive Engineer, Transportation referred to the Chief Executive's report, including the submissions received. The Part 8 process was outlined, with councillors having six weeks to consider the report from the date of receipt.

Matters raised by councillors included:



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- Referred to the lack of CCTV and Garda presence, which has led to many residents being concerned due to anti-social behaviour.
- Queried if a commitment can be given as to when the CCTV will be operational.
- Queried how the concerns raised in the submissions are being addressed.
- Referred to ongoing traffic issues in the area.
- Requested that clearer information be provided regarding access to the graveyard.
- Acknowledged that this section forms an integral part of the wider cycle network.
- Requested that the planters be replaced with suitable trees.
- Queried how many Gardaí are on duty in Navan at night and at weekends.
- Referred to the safety concerns of many of those residents who live closest to the road as the removal of traffic has resulted in a lack of passive security.
- Referred to the ongoing issues of anti-social behaviour, graffiti and property damage despite the council's efforts.
- Referred to difficulties for those with mobility issues in accessing the graveyard as the car park is too far away.
- Queried whether the numbers walking and cycling justify the permanent changes, particularly during the colder months and at night.
- Referred to the impact on access for residents.

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- Queried whether it would be possible to re-introduce traffic whilst providing safe shared routes for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists.

Martin Murray pointed out that this was not a distinct piece of infrastructure but formed part of a wider connectivity network, which aims to provide safe access to the town for many residents. The Part 8 for the CCTV Scheme has been approved and the council is waiting for the Garda Commissioner to sign off on the scheme. CCTV and public lighting will help with many of the issues raised but, as the CCTV is out of the council's control, a definitive timeline cannot be provided. A shared surface and other measures had been considered but, due to the pinchpoints and national monuments, the options were limited. Parking closer to the graveyard is available on the Athlumey side with signage to be provided. The planters will also be upgraded. Councillors were reminded of the options as part of the Part 8 process, with an option to amend within 6 week consideration period.

5.2 Community

5.2.1 To receive an update on Johnstown Community Facilities.

Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community Department delivered a presentation, which included background information on the site, the results of the public consultation undertaken in 2017 and the next steps, including the plan to design the layout of the community facilities early in the new year. It is intended to undertake the formal Part 8 process in Q2 2023.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the news of the community facility.
- Queried how decisions will be taken in terms of what will be included on the site and would the public have input on this – the need for a building, with meeting rooms, has been identified.
- Queried how the remaining appropriately zoned land is being used – the lands have a variety of uses and a substantial amount is unavailable.



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- Queried whether the council would seek an anchor tenant to look after the site – this will be considered at a later date.
- Queried the amount of funding available and its sources – a funding allocation has been made in the capital plan and funding applications will also be made.
- Expressed the hope that this would encourage further facility provision.

5.3 Transportation

5.3.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Navan Municipal District.

The report had been circulated in advance and a further update provided at the meeting.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Referred to kerb damage at Blackcastle Shopping Centre as a result of delivery lorries – this is a private car park.
- Thanked everyone involved in the commemoration ceremony at Mellow's Terrace.
- Thanked all involved in the winter gritting programme.
- Referred to the footpath at Kennedy Plaza which is slippery during icy weather – this is gritted in the mornings as necessary.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy



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"To ask the Executive to provide an update on the Taking in Charge process of the road at Mill Lane in Navan."

Response:

Meath County Council are progressing this matter and working on securing the consent of all the adjacent landowners. Following receipt of consent, the necessary technical infrastructure assessments will be completed, which will subsequently inform the formal recommendation to the elected members.

The response was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"Under whose charge is the green area between Abbeygrove Estate and Nangle Court? The residents of Abbeygrove maintain the large green area in Abbeygrove and have asked if this area has been taken in charge by Meath County Council."

Response:

Abbeygrove Estate is taken in charge by Meath County Council, this includes open spaces/green areas.

The response was noted.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane (Deferred from the November meeting)

"I propose that Meath County Council install a traffic calming ramp in addition to a pedestrian crossing at St Mary's Cemetery carpark, so as it can be a link to the footpath leading to Glenveigh Housing Estate, Boyne Road."

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



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Meath County Council will need to undertake a full review of the site suggested regarding access, visibility, lighting and speed limits before a decision could be made on the requirement of a pedestrian crossing or traffic calming measures. A further update can be provided when the review is complete.

Councillor Francis Deane introduced the motion by referring to a commitment made a number of years ago to undertake a traffic survey at this location due to the speed of traffic on the road. Councillors Emer Tóibín and Pádraig Fitzsimons spoke in support of the motion. It was agreed to check when the speed surveys, as part of the countywide speed limit review, would take place.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by Councillor Francis Deane and seconded by Councillor Emer Tóibín, was agreed.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"I call on Meath County Council to erect signage for Old Johnstown village, at Chapel Road, L5050, and also at Kilcarne Road from Metges Road."

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

Meath County Council will seek quotations and design specifications for the requested signage and update the members once this has been progressed.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by Councillor Francis Deane and seconded by Councillor Yemi Adenuga, was agreed.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

"To ask the Executive, when compiling the Schedule of Municipal District Works, to include on the Housing Estates Remedial Work List, the remaining section of laneway on the St. Brigid's Villas Estate."

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



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Meath County Council have St Brigid's Villas on the 3 Year programme of works for Housing Estates and the remaining section of back lanes will be maintained during these works.

Councillor Edward Fennessy introduced the motion by confirming that residents were very happy with the work carried out to date and look forward to further works planned.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by Councillor Edward Fennessy and seconded by Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons, was agreed.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

"To request the following works on the St. Mary's Park Estate:

- Footpath repair programme
- Installation of additional parking bays
- Speed ramp provision at Slane Road entrance
- Upgrading of the laneway adjacent to St. Oliver's N.S."

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

Footpath repairs are to be complete in both St. Mary's Estate and on the lane at the back of the national school. Works are to commence in Spring of 2023. Meath County Council proposes to carry out a survey to ascertain the extent of speeding and assess driver behaviour in the area. Any traffic management measures deemed necessary by the Transportation Section will be put forward for consideration in a future programme of works. Resurfacing of the existing parking bays will be complete with the footpath works. Extra parking spacing will be considered during the construction of the footpath.

Councillor Edward Fennessy introduced the motion by welcoming the works undertaken, particularly the development of the laneway and pointing out that the public lighting, footpath and cycling infrastructure will improve safety. He queried if a full upgrade is still planned for next year and it was agreed to check this.



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The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Tommy Reilly**, was agreed.

7.5 Submitted by Councillor Yemi Adenuga

"I call on Meath County Council to approve the request from the business community in Navan town centre for the removal of 3 identified parklets, in 3 locations, (2 on Watergate Street and 1 on Old Cornmarket), that have been shown to be in less use, in comparison with other parklets in the town centre. This request is following a review carried out by business owners in Navan Town centre, with feedback from 41 Navan Town centre business, on the benefit of the outdoor-dinning-parklets in Navan Town centre, after one and half years of installation."

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

Two of the three parklets have been removed as requested. The third parklet can be discussed further at the meeting.

Councillor Yemi Adenuga introduced the motion by outlining the background to the introduction of the parklets and referring to the request that these be branded to promote non-hospitality businesses. She referred to the concerns of some of these businesses that the loss of car parking spaces had resulted in a loss of trade. Councillor Adenuga referred to a survey carried out, which suggested that three parklets, two on Watergate Street and one on Cornmarket, be removed and that these two of these had already been removed. Councillor Tommy Reilly expressed his opposition to the removal of the second parklet on Watergate Street, as it is being used by businesses at that location. Martin Murray pointed out that the parklets had been provided with the consent of those affected. Following a discussion two months ago, the council had liaised with the Chamber of Commerce and observed the parklets. Following discussion with councillors, two had been removed and it had been agreed to leave the remaining parklets in place until the end of the year, following which they will be reviewed. This will also coincide with a change in the law, with a charge to be applied to the use of the space and a statutory planning process for their retention.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Lawes**, was noted.



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

8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 11th November 2022.

The minutes were noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Councillor Edward Fennessy raised the following issue:

10.1.1 Queried the arrangements for Christmas parking in Navan – one hour paid parking is followed by one hour free parking.


10.2 Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons raised the following issue:

10.2.1 Referred to the condition of some of the equipment in the playground in Blackwater Park – the necessary parts have been ordered.

The Mayor wished everyone a very happy Christmas and thanked the executive, the Municipal District Engineer and the Meeting Administration team for their work throughout the year. He also thanked the councillors. On behalf of the executive, Martin Murray thanked councillors for their support throughout the year and wished everyone a very happy Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:


An Meára