



Clár / Meeting Minutes

Navan Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

10:00 a.m., 15th February 2023, Navan Civic Offices

An Meára, **Councillor Edward Fennessy**, presided.

Councillors Present: Councillors Francis Deane, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Tommy Reilly and Emer Tóibín.

Councillors Present via Zoom: Councillors Yemi Adenuga and Alan Lawes.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Martin Murray

Executive Engineer: Shane Durcan

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 18th January 2023.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18th January 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Paul Howard, The Park, Athlumney;
- The family of the late Brian Crowley, Boyne Road, Ferganstown;



Clár / Meeting Minutes

- The family of the late Pádraig Walsh, Durrow, Laois, former Macra na Feirme and IFA President;
- The family of the late Patrick Cunningham, Claremont, Navan;
- The family of the late Cathal Brughá MacDevitt, Moatville, Navan, former school principal.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 To consider and adopt the 2023 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

In attendance on behalf of the Transportation Department were Caroline Corrigan, Senior Engineer and Majella Farrell, Administrative Officer.

Caroline Corrigan delivered a presentation which included information on an overview of 2022, sustainability and the circular economy, data led SMDW development, pre-2018 versus 2022 PSCI ratings, Meath's performance in comparison to the national average, an overview of the 2023 SMDW programme, challenges for 2023, sources of funding, how increased investment in the road network has led to network improvements and reactive, planned and strategic services.

Matters raised by councillors, and responses provided, included:

- Welcomed the increased funding allocated, including own resources, and acknowledged the progress made in improving and maintaining the road network.
- Welcomed the focus on road reinstatement following works associated with road opening licences – statutory agencies have the right to access the roads for utilities and, as the numbers increase, it is becoming harder to manage, e.g. the number of licences linked to broadband and water infrastructure. However, a specific approach in managing these is being taken.
- Requested that improvement works on the car park bordering Navan, Ashbourne and Laytown-Bettystown municipal districts at the Bridge of the Boyne, Stackallen be undertaken.



Clár / Meeting Minutes

- Referred to the need for road safety measures in Robinstown.
- Queried if additional funding would be allocated for CIS and LIS projects – there is an extensive list of CIS projects, with funding allocations decreasing, whilst a second round of funding was made in 2022 for LIS projects, with a shorter list of projects on hand.
- Queried if street sweeping will be undertaken at weekends – street sweeping and deep cleans form part of the public realm and it has been discussed at national level that additional funding is required to maintain the public realm investment being made.
- Queried if road maintenance schedules would increase to take account of the impact on roads resulting from the increased population in the county and municipal district – an exercise is being undertaken around the 2022 census figures and activities will be future proofed with alternative transport assisting with decarbonisation. Decisions around investment are informed using data on traffic flows, etc.

The Mayor thanked Caroline and her team in the Transportation Department for the work being done.

Corrina Elder, Senior Engineer, Housing Department delivered a presentation, which included examples of improvement works carried out, sources of funding including centralised budgets and the funding allocated to the various categories and the planned programme of works for the year.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the planned energy upgrade works.
- Queried if a more up to date and simpler heating system than air to water is available and whether air to water systems are efficient – air to water units are the system currently available and department funded retrofit grants apply to established technology. New systems would first have to be subject to testing.
- Queried the percentage of heating systems changed from oil/gas to air to water or other systems and how many houses require new heating systems – houses



Clár / Meeting Minutes

must first be brought to B2 rating before air to water units can be installed, as adequate insulation is required for these systems to work effectively. Lower rated houses are selected first. The planned maintenance programme will, over time, involve the replacement of oil and gas heating systems.

- Queried how tenants can apply for window replacement and/or how units are selected for window replacement.
- Queried the allocation for halting site maintenance – that is the cost for maintaining the two halting sites, with one being currently refurbished.
- Queried the timeframe for decisions on applications for adaptation works to issue – priority is based on medical need, with applications for essential works approved within 8 weeks. The process includes an OT assessment, assessment by the Clerk of Works and quotes for works. Occasionally there can be a delay in obtaining quotes. Applications for other types of works, such as window and door replacement, may take longer to process.
- Queried the timeframe for all houses in Navan to be maintained/improved to a certain standing – energy and BER surveys indicate the works required. Whilst the number of assessors available is limited, 80 to 90 properties are surveyed in advance and within the year.
- Queried the average age of the housing stock in the county and referred to the need for planned repair and upgrade programme – a new IT system is being introduced for planned maintenance, with a stock survey to be carried out on all houses every four years. Planned maintenance will, in time, replace responsive maintenance, with the exception of emergency maintenance.
- Queried if the programme of works being undertaken in Claremont would also be undertaken in St. Patrick's Terrace and Woodview – surveys are being undertaken in Claremont and a plan is in place, possibly over three phases, to replace doors and windows. In relation to St. Patrick's Terrace and Woodview, the possible costs and approach are being looked at.
- Requested that the council deal with vermin infestation in local authority estates to prevent property damage – the tenant is responsible for vermin infestation, which is usually caused by poor refuse management. Where damage to a



Clár / Meeting Minutes

property does occur, preventative measures will be undertaken to prevent access.

The 2023 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Navan Municipal District was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**.

4.2 Planning

- 4.2.1 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, Navan Cycle Scheme - R147 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout, Navan, Co. Meath.

Development will consist of:

Development works on the following roads and junctions in Navan; - R147, from its junction with R-161-5 Watergate Street and R-162-169 Flower Hill westwards to the N51 Junction with Beaufort Road and L-8950-0 Abbey Road. Thereon continuing westwards along the N51 to tie-in with the proposed LDR4 road scheme to the east of the existing Kells Road Roundabout. - The junction of the R147 with R-161-5 Watergate Street and R-162-169 Flower Hill known as Poolboy Bridge. - The junction of R147 with the N51 Beaufort Road and L-8950-0 Abbey Road known as 'Fire Station Junction'. - The junction of the N51 and the R-895-2 Canon Row and the Balmoral Industrial Estate. The proposed works will be carried out within existing roadway boundaries, with some minor relocation/setting back of some public and private boundaries. Construction works along the route will involve the following elements; - Construction of new kerb lines for new footpaths and cycle lanes/tracks. - Provision of new footpaths and/or upgrading of existing surfaces on footpaths. - Provision of controlled crossings points for pedestrians and cyclists. - Provision of segregated cycling facilities. - Provision for shared road space for cycling. - Upgrading of existing signalised junctions to accommodate safe pedestrian and cyclist maneuvers. - Removal of the existing left-turn-lane on Abbey Road heading west. - The provision of additional landscaping such as trees, shrubbery etc. - Earthworks/excavations of existing roadways and verges, of existing roadway/footpaths, for service ducts and road crossings, etc. - All associated civil works with the above i.e., ducting, drainage, concreting, macadam works, tree felling, hedge removal etc. - Provision of retaining features within existing side slopes to provide



Clár / Meeting Minutes

additional width for pedestrian and cycling facilities. - Setting back of the wall between the N51 and Dean Cogan Place. - Upgrading existing bus stops.

Development Location: R147 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout, Navan, Co. Meath (P822021).

Paul O'Brien, Executive Engineer, Transportation provided the background to the Part 8, with the proposed plans having been on public display from 28th November to 20th December 2022. Three positive submissions were received and the screening and assessments have been undertaken, with the scheme being in compliance with all national and local policies. It is recommended that the proposed project proceed as per the conditions outlined.

Following a number of queries, to which responses were provided, it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Edward Fennessy** and seconded by **Councillor Yemi Adenuga** to proceed as per the Chief Executives Recommendation.

- 4.2.2 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 amendments to previously permitted Kiosk Building at Kennedy Plaza, Abbeyland South, Navan, Co Meath.

Amendments shall include for:

- The construction of a Kiosk Building to a revised design and layout from that previously permitted under Planning Ref P8/17004, which shall incorporate a commercial food & beverage counter, a tourist information stand and bus driver rest & welfare facilities.
- All associated service connections.
- Alterations to adjacent paved surfaces to facilities access to the proposed building.

Development Location: Kennedy Plaza, Abbeyland South, Navan (P822023).

Paul O'Brien, Executive Engineer, Transportation outlined the proposed works, which were on public display from 5th December 2022 to 12th January 2023. One



Clár / Meeting Minutes

submission was received, to which a response was issued. The proposal refers to the same location as the original proposal but allows for enhanced facilities. The recommend is to proceed as outlined.

Following a number of queries, to which responses were provided, it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane** to proceed as outlined.

4.3 Transportation

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

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

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Complimented Shane and his team for the works carried out.
- Requested that the laneway adjacent to Reask Green be cleaned up due to the amount of illegal dumping having taken place.
- Requested that additional street cleaning be undertaken in the Brews Hill area in advance of GAA games taking place.
- Referred to traffic tailbacks on the Ratholdren Road from Abbeygrove and queried if the lights sequence could be reviewed – a separate team is carrying out a survey of junctions and this is a very busy junction with the N51. The opening of LDR4 will relieve the traffic at this location.
- Queried if land could be acquired to provide a staggered junction at Lawless Cross.
- Queried if interim measures were being considered for the junction at the Borallion on the Trim Road – additional signage is being provided and, under the Pathfinder Programme, a project linking Trim and Navan may be accelerated with a further update to be provided in 3 to 4 months.



Clár / Meeting Minutes

- Requested that the gullies at the pedestrian crossing at St. Paul's N.S. on the Silverlawns side be cleared out.

4.4 Corporate Affairs and Governance

4.4.1 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Navan Municipal District.

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín

“To ask Meath County Council how much it would cost to upgrade IT infrastructure and facilities at the Council Chamber, Railway St, Navan so that all meetings (Full Council or other) could be accessible either in person or remotely.”

Response:

The Council has been holding meetings in the Solstice Arts Centre since June 2020 due to restrictions imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic. However, as the Covid-19 restrictions were eased and the Solstice Arts Centre returned to a full time-table of events, it was no longer suitable for the Council to continue to hold the monthly meetings in the Solstice Arts Centre. The elected members were surveyed regarding their preference for in-person, hybrid or zoom only meetings and the preferred option was for hybrid meetings. The executive reviewed the facilities available in both County Hall and Buvinda House and it was deemed that Buvinda House was best suited to accommodate both council meetings and other statutory meetings. As the proposal for the Council Chamber was deemed unsuitable for modern meetings, the upgrade works were never fully costed, although initial conversations during the feasibility investigations with contractors indicated excessive costs would be incurred. The meeting room in Buvinda has been fully equipped with the most up to date technology to accommodate hybrid meetings to ensure full participation in council meetings by all elected members whether they attend in person or remotely.

The response was noted. Councillor Emer Tóibín sought clarification on the estimated cost of works outlined in the Notice of Question.



Clár / Meeting Minutes

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

"To ask the Executive for an update on the completion of the Mine View social housing estate at Mullaghboy on the old Athboy Road."

Response:

This site and construction project is managed by Respond Housing Association. Delivery of the units is expected in Q1 2023 on a phased basis and an extension to the project has been granted to June 2023. The Housing Department continue to liaise with Respond on an ongoing basis.

The response was noted. Councillor Edward Fennessy sought clarification on the timeframe for the delivery of the two and four bed units.

5.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

"When is the Atkins report pertaining to the Ramparts/Boyne Canal Greenway due to be published?"

Response:

In reference to the forthcoming report from Atkins Consultants, pertaining to the Ramparts/Boyne Canal Greenway, we can confirm that this is expected during the first Quarter of 2023.

The response was noted.

5.4 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly

"To ask Meath County Council for an update on the taking in charge of The Priory View estate in Johnstown."

Response:

The Planning Department is working together with Navan Municipal District with respect to bringing the estate up to taking-in-charge standard. This will soon be referred to consultants to draft tender documents in relation to the works required and to seek a



Clár / Meeting Minutes

contractor to carry out same. Once works are completed the maps can be placed on display with a view that the taking-in-charge process will be complete by the end of the year.

The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

"To ask the Executive to engage with the NTA and Bus Éireann to arrange the provision of bus stops on the Trim Road at the County Hall and Woodlands/Connolly Avenue areas."

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

Meath County Council are reviewing the potential of providing bus stops, in the environs of the locations noted, as part of the Trim Road Cycle Scheme.

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

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Edward Fennessy

"The organising committee of the Navan Pride Festival 2023 (June 26th - July 2nd) would like the Executive to support their event by placing rainbow flags and bunting at key locations around the town. And, similar to the Christmas initiative, to provide projected lighting on the Solstice Arts Centre and a light show on the River Boyne."

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

Meath County Council will support the Navan Pride Festival 2023 by placing pride flags at Buvinda and the Town Hall in Navan and also throughout the County at all our Civic Buildings in each MD area. Projection is not advised in the months of June/July due to the many hours of daylight resulting in the images not being clear or evident.



Clár / Meeting Minutes

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

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“I call on Meath County Council to consider adding extra categories to the Pride of Place competition for 2023, for example, prizes for best shop front, painting scheme, rear/front gardens in small housing estates, historical monuments, etc. in order to generate more participation/interest by local residents and community groups.”

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

Following the completion of the Pride of Place competition each year, a review of the scheme takes place. This review incorporates comments received from several sources including the judges, participants and Elected Members. The scheme can then be updated for the following year thus ensuring that the Pride of Place remains relevant for everyone involved and encourage ongoing participation and new groups to become involved. In addition, information sessions are arranged for groups to provide guidance on improving their estates, towns or villages for the next year.

Under the 2022 scheme, there were 20 No. categories which included shop front, best bee friendly front garden and heritage (which includes historical monuments). These are currently being reviewed for the 2023 Scheme.

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

6.4 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane

“I propose that Meath County Council would write to Bus Éireann asking to extend the town bus service to Old Johnstown village, from Metges Road, via Kilcarn Rd, via Johnstown Village to L5050 Chapel Road to Casey's Cross onto R153 Kentstown Road to Navan Town.”

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



Clár / Meeting Minutes

At present there are no plans to install bus stops in Old Johnstown Village. Upon completion of the new access road from Dunville to the L5050, the Council intends to request that the local Town Bus Service routes (N1 & N2) be redirected (currently travelling to Kilcarn) from Metges Road to Old Johnstown Village onto the L5050, and then to the Dunville access road, where it will turn back, around the roundabout, and return to Old Johnstown Village via the L5050. At present there is no definitive timetable for the opening of this access road.

If this is agreed, it is intended to complete design works, tender and construct a minimum of two bus stops in the vicinity of Old Johnstown Village to coincide with the opening of the road and the redirection of the bus services from Kilcarn, as outlined above.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons**, was noted.

6.5 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly

“I call on Meath County Council to arrange the transfer of community lands at Liscarton, Navan, Co. Meath back to the community to be used, inter-alia, as a centre of excellence by the Meath LGFA and also to be used for other sporting/recreational purposes, in line with similar cow plots which have been allocated throughout the county.”

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

The transfer of lands is a reserved function of the members, to date we have no request from any community/sporting group in this regard. The lands are currently under a lease at this time. However, this proposal has its merit, and we can discuss further with interested community groups/clubs.

Councillor Tommy Reilly introduced the motion by referring to the importance of active sport participation and provided examples of locations where facilities and amenities had been provided. He referred to the issues being faced by the LGFA in finding suitable and affordable facilities and expressed the hope that they could be accommodated here or elsewhere. Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons suggested that further information was required in relation to the site, e.g. the works need to make it suitable, access, etc. and how it would be managed. Councillor Francis Deane expressed his support for the motion.



Clár / Meeting Minutes

Martin Murray outlined the location, size and constraints of the site in question and confirmed that the council is happy to meet with the group to discuss proposals, following recent contact from the group.

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

6.6 Submitted by Councillor Tommy Reilly

“To call on Meath County Council to acquire four vacant properties in Johnstown Village to restore them to habitable properties following the announcement of €150 million for these projects.”

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

The Vacant Property Unit will identify the properties referenced and arrange inspections, as appropriate.

Councillor Tommy Reilly introduced the motion by referring to the funding recently announced for the acquisition of vacant properties and whether this could be used to acquire the properties in question. Councillor Francis Deane spoke in support of the motion.

Martin Murray confirmed that these properties have been acquired and that an outlined proposal would be brought to the March meeting. Councillor Francis Deane complimented the plans for the old Spicers site and Andy Brennan Park.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Francis Deane**, was noted.

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

- 7.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 2nd December 2022.

The minutes were noted.

- 7.2 To note the report from the Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC



Clár / Meeting Minutes

meeting of 20th December 2022.

The report was noted.

- 7.3 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC of 8th December 2022.

The report was noted.

- 7.4 To note the report from the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee of 15th December 2022.

The report was noted.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Correspondence received from the office of Chief Superintendent John Dollard, Meath/Westmeath Garda Division in response to letter issued as per Item 7.2 – Notice of Motion on the January meeting minutes.

The correspondence was noted.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Councillor Tommy Reilly raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Requested that the lights at St. Oliver's Church be upgraded.

- 9.2 Councillor Edward Fennessy raised the following issue:

9.2.1 Requested that the council engage with the GAA and Gardaí to ensure that an appropriate traffic management plan is in place during GAA matches due to the impacts on local residents, e.g. those living in Emmet Terrace who were prevented from exiting their homes during a recent game – it was confirmed that discussions had taken place and the parking options, including car parks, will be promoted.



Clár / Meeting Minutes

- 9.3 Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons raised the following issue:
- 9.3.1 Referred to the forthcoming St. Patrick's Day parade and queried if the route would need to change to take account of works undertaken – it was agreed to consider the route closer to the time.
- 9.4 Martin Murray confirmed that an additional NTA funding had been allocated to the N51 Park & Ride facility and that the scheme would be brought down the road towards the hospital to the front of the Moat. This will include a cycleway, footpath, new lights and junction realignment. It will necessitate a road closure for approximately 10 weeks and full stakeholder engagement will be undertaken. The Park & Ride facility will open prior to these works being carried out.
- 9.5 Paul O'Brien provided an update on works being undertaken as part of the Navan 2030 scheme, including at Kennedy Plaza, Market Square and on the R147.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

An Meára