



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

6th November 2023 @ 1.15p.m.

Buvinda House, Navan (and online via zoom)

Presiding

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tommy Reilly

Councillors Present:

Councillors Joseph Bonner, Mike Bray, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Aisling Dempsey, Brian Fitzgerald, Padraig Fitzsimons, Joe Fox, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Trevor Golden, Wayne Harding, Geraldine Keogan, Nick Killian, Alan Lawes, Paul McCabe, Elaine McGinty, Stephen McKee, Paddy Meade, Helen Meyer, Ronan Moore, Maria Murphy, Gerry O'Connor, Sarah Reilly, Amanda Smith, Emer Tóibín, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole.

Councillors Present via Zoom:

Councillors Yemi Adenuga, Tom Behan, Sean Drew, Edward Fennessy, Noel French, Deirdre Geraghty-Smith, Suzanne Jamal, Niamh Souhan, Alan Tobin, Conor Tormey.

Officials in attendance:

Chief Executive: Fiona Lawless

Directors of Service: Des Foley, Barry Lynch, Dara McGowan

A/Head of Finance: Sheila Harkin

Senior Engineer: Nicholas Whyatt

Meetings Administrator: Elaine Daly

Apologies: Martin Murray, Director of Service

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Elected Members to the meeting. He noted that the first item on the agenda, which had issued separately to the Elected Members, would be discussed 'in committee'.

To consider the recommendation from Public Appointments Service and the Corporate Policy Group in relation to the appointment of the Chief Executive of Meath County Council, in accordance with the provisions of Local Government (Appointment of Chief Executive) Regulations 2014.

Mr. Dara McGowan outlined the provisions of S.I. No. 589/2014 – Local Government (Appointment of Chief Executive) Regulations 2014. He noted that the Elected Members could;

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- (a) Appoint the recommended person as Chief Executive
- (b) Not appoint the recommended person as Chief Executive
- (c) Seek additional information from the Public Appointments Service in relation to the recommendation.

There were interventions and queries from **Councillors Michael Gallagher** and **Paddy Meade**. Responses to queries raised were provided by the Chief Executive.

On the proposal of **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian**, the Elected Members unanimously resolved to appoint Mr. Kieran Kehoe as Chief Executive of Meath County Council, as recommended by the Public Appointments Service.

There was a 5 minute recess to allow members of the press, public and other staff members to access the meeting.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

- 1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 2nd October 2023. (See below)

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 2nd October 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Mike Bray** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Gillian Toole noted that she had not yet received the safety reports in relation to the school wardens at Rathbeggan NS and Scoil na Rithe in the Ratoath MD. **Councillor Nick Killian** noted that he had just received confirmation that the County Club Car Park services were also being withdrawn from Rathbeggan NS which would further exacerbate the difficulties.

Nicholas Whyatt agreed to follow up with the Senior Engineer in the Operations Dept. and revert to the Elected Members.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

- 3.1 Expressions of Sympathy

Expressions of Sympathy were extended to:

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ken Reilly, IT on the death of his brother, Ivan Reilly

Susan Lynch, School Warden, on the death of her husband former outdoor employee, Trim MD, James Lynch

The family of the late Edward Fennelly, former outdoor employee, Ashbourne MD

Sharon Maher, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath

Helen McDonogh, Billywood Stud, Moynalty, Co. Meath.

3.2 Expressions of Congratulations

Expressions of Congratulations were extended to:

All involved in the preparation of the Púca Festival, the Samhain Festival and Lú Festival of Light.

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 0.1212 Ha of land at Donacarney Little, Garra Road, Mornington, 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 lands are not affected by the provisions of the Land Development Agency Act 2021.

The disposal, in accordance with the statutory notice issued on September 19, 2023, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Tom Behan**.

- 4.2 Disposal of 0.1812 Ha of land at Manorland (2nd Division) and Townparks South, Trim, 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 lands are not affected by the provisions of the Land Development Agency Act 2021.

The disposal, in accordance with the statutory notice issued on September 29, 2023, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden**.

- 4.3 Disposal of 0.5661 Ha of land, by way of lease, at Nobber, 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 lands are not affected by the provisions of the Land Development Agency Act 2021.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Councillor Eugene Cassidy declared a potential conflict of interest due to his membership of the Amenity Park Committee and withdrew from the meeting.

The disposal, in accordance with the statutory notice issued on October 18, 2023, under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Paul McCabe** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

Councillor Eugene Cassidy returned to the meeting.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Climate Action and Environment

5.1.1 To receive a presentation on the Draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

Mr. Dara McGowan outlined the tight timelines for the adoption of the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and it was noted that the Plan must be adopted by resolution on or before 23rd February 2024. Ms. Mary D’Arcy, Climate Action Co-ordinator, set out the context for the draft plan. The vision, mission and strategic goals were outlined as well as the Council’s role to lead, enable and inspire local climate actions. In addition, the County emissions inventory by sector from a baseline year in 2018 were noted.

There were interventions and queries from **Councillors Nick Killian, Michael Gallagher, Sharon Tolan, David Gilroy, Elaine McGinty, Gerry O’Connor, Emer Tóibín, Alan Tobin, Ronan Moore** and **Maria Murphy**. There were queries regarding the impact of transport and public transport, flooding issues, capacity for electric vehicles, role of councillors in promoting the plan. Responses to queries were provided by Ms. Mary D’Arcy and Mr. Dara McGowan.

An Cathaoirleach Councillor Tommy Reilly left the meeting at 2.30pm and the **Leas-Chathaoirleach, Councillor Paul McCabe** presided in his absence.

5.2 Planning

5.2.1 To receive the Chief Executive’s report on submissions received following publication of the Draft Meath Development Contribution Scheme 2024 – 2029.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ms. Majella Farrell, Acting Senior Executive Officer, provided details of the four submissions made following public consultation of the Draft Meath Development Contribution Scheme. It was noted that the Scheme would be amended to extend the exemption to housing provided under the Affordable Housing Act 2021 and the Land Development Act 2021. It was further noted that the Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2024 - 2029 would be brought before the Elected Members for adoption at the December Council meeting.

There were interventions and queries from **Councillors Michael Gallagher, Ronan Moore, Gillian Toole, Gerry O'Connor, Alan Tobin and Nick Killian**. The queries raised included monitoring quarries, temporary permissions for solar panels, review periods, analysis of income and expenditure per Municipal District and special contributions. Responses to queries raised were provided by Ms. Majella Farrell and Mr. Des Foley.

5.2.2 To make a resolution to proceed with Variation No. 1 of the Meath County Development Plan 2021 – 2027.

It was agreed that Agenda Items 5.2.2 and 7.3 would be considered together.

Mr. Alan Russell, Senior Executive Planner, outlined the details of the proposed Variation No. 1 of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027. He noted that the purpose of the variation is to give effect to the following amendments:

- Objective regarding replacement of the Written Statements in Volume 2 with Local Area Plans;
- GIS digitisation of Brú na Bóinne;
- Regularisation of existing non-confirming land use;
- Core Strategy flexibility.

Mr. Russell further outlined the proposed timeline for the variation process, as well as the Settlement Capacity Audit that will be progressed concurrently. It was further noted that the first liability date for the Residential Zoned Land Tax will be deferred to February 1, 2025.

There were interventions from **Councillors Joe Fox, Gerry O'Connor, Mike Bray, Brian Fitzgerald, David Gilroy and Gillian Toole**. The Councillors welcomed the opportunity to revise elements of the County Development Plan.

On the proposal of **Councillor Joe Fox** and **seconded by Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** the Elected Members unanimously resolved to initiate the process for variation No. 1 of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027.

6 Reports

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

6.1 Chief Executive's Report

There were interventions from the following Elected Members: **Councillors Nick Killian, Mike Bray, Sharon Tolan, Alan Tobin, Alan Lawes, Edward Fennessy, Gillian Toole, Sarah Reilly, Michael Gallagher, Pdraig Fitzsimons, Emer Toibin, Noel French and Helen Meyer.** Matters raised included:

Housing: Leasing, number of single applicants on the housing list, turnkey homes, provision of a hostel/support living accommodation, Housing Adaptation Grants, Homeless figures.

Transport: Investment in roads, road safety measures, Mornington to Drogheda Greenway, Boyne Valley Greenway.

Environment/Climate: Flooding, HVO trial, bulky waste disposal.

Corporate Affairs: Elected Members' CRM Portal, Irish Language Officer, flight paths from Dublin Airport.

Planning: Inspections and enforcement, location of planning notices.

Responses to queries raised were provided by Mr. Barry Lynch, Mr. Nicholas Whyatt, Mr. Dara McGowan and Mr. Des Foley.

An Cathaoirleach Councillor Tommy Reilly returned to the meeting at 3.20pm and presided over the meeting.

6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group

The Meetings Administrator reported that the CPG met on Friday November 3, 2023 and reviewed the agenda for the November Council Meeting. The members were provided with an update on the progress of Budget 2024 and were reminded of the dates and arrangements for the General Municipal Allocation Meetings.

The minutes of the Transportation SPC meeting of September 28, 2023 were noted. In addition, the minutes of the Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC meeting of October 20, 2023 were noted and the recommendations were approved.

6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee

The Meetings Administrator reported that the Protocol Committee met on Friday, November 3, 2023.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Training arrangements for the Elected Members CRM Portal were discussed.

It was noted that the Protocol Committee had considered a request for a town twinning arrangement between Laytown/Bettystown MD and Oakland, San Francisco as there is a connection with Ms. Kate Kennedy who hailed from Duleek and moved to San Francisco. The Protocol Committee agreed to further explore the opportunities for a town twinning arrangement.

The Protocol Committee approved the conference and training schedules.

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Correspondence from Minister for Justice, Ms. Helen McEntee T.D. in response to Notice of Motion 10.1 adopted at the September 2023 meeting of the full Council re. Ireland's international protection system.

"The Meath County Council calls on the Government to review, with a view to improving, the current asylum application process in order to better deal with asylum applicants in Ireland."

The correspondence was noted by the Elected Members.

- 7.2 LG 06-2023 – Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage re. Increase to elected member annual remuneration on 1 October 2023.

The correspondence was noted by the Elected Members.

- 7.3 Circular Letter: NRUP 02/2023 – Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage re. Residential Zoned Land Tax: Publication of a Final Map.

The correspondence was discussed as part of Agenda Item 5.2.2 and the correspondence was noted by the Elected Members.

8 Notice of Question

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Paul McCabe

"To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on the financial cost to this Local Authority to deal with the scourge of illegal dumping, fly tipping and the illegal disposal of

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

hazardous material and for each year since 2018; and if she will make a statement on the matter?"

Response

The direct costs associated with the illegal dumping are shown in the table below.

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (to date)
€ 115,000	€ 183,000	€ 232,000	€ 188,000	€ 169,000	€ 102,000

These costs do not include the indirect costs such as litter wardens, technical and administration support and associated costs.

There are also other indirect Environmental Awareness costs incurred by the Council which aim to address issues associated with illegal dumping. These Include Anti-Litter Initiatives, Green KM, Bulky Waste Collections, Green Schools, etc.

Noted by the Elected Members.

8.2 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

"To ask Meath County Council for a breakdown, in tabular format, of all social housing units, whether Local Authority or Approved Housing Body, in all housing estates in Meath, per Municipal District?"

Response

The table below shows the total number of social housing units (Meath County Council and Approved Housing Bodies) across estates in Co. Meath where social housing has been provided.

MD	
Ashbourne	390
Kells	832
Laytown/Bettystown	997
Navan	1524



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ratoath	715
Trim	871
Total	5329

Noted by the Elected Members.

8.3 Submitted by Councillor Noel French

“How many people require one bed housing units at present and how many one bed units were provided in the last 5 years?”

Response

Table 1 below sets out the current demand for 1 bed units, per Municipal District. There has been a total of 169 1 bed allocations in the past 5 years. This is shown in Table 2.

Table 1

Municipal District	One bed Need
Ashbourne	216
Kells	260
Laytown & Bettystown	194
Navan	639
Ratoath	141
Trim	202
Total	1652

Table 2

Year	MCC allocated	AHB	Total
2023	28	21	49
2022	27	17	44
2021	25	7	32
2020	11	7	18
2019	22	4	26
Total	113	56	169

Noted by the Elected Members.

8.4 Submitted by Councillor Emer Tóibín



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

“To ask Meath County Council how many houses are currently vacant in Meath and what are the main delays or obstacles to the efficient and timely turnaround of council housing, as current statistics indicate that nationally the average time to re-let council houses has increased steadily since 2018 averaging at almost eight months.”

Response

Meath County Council reports annually for the NOAC Performance indicators on time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date when the dwelling is re-tenanted.

For the 2022 NOAC Performance indicators, Meath County Council reported the time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date when the dwelling was re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2022 as being 30.86 weeks, a reduction of 21.5% from the previous year. This compares favourably to the national average re-letting time in 2022 of 35.22 weeks.

The Housing Department is continuously examining processes to achieve further reductions in relet times.

The challenges experienced in achieving a timely turnaround of council housing include contractor availability, extent of the works required. time to complete allocation process including completing pre allocation checks and refusals.

Outlined below is a summary per Municipal District of the 42 nr. vacant properties (as per Monthly CE Report) that currently require works before they can be re-tenanted.

	No. of Units Vacant < 3 Months	No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months	No. of Units Vacant > 6 Months	No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works	No. of Vacant Units not yet with Contractors
Ashbourne	1	1	1	2	1
Kells	2	5	3	8	2
Laytown/Bettystown	1	0	0	1	0
Navan	9	5	2	8	8
Ratoath	2	1	1	2	2

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Trim	4	2	2	4	4
TOTALS	19	14	9**	25	17

**Note: Seven of these pre-let properties are major refurb which include energy upgrades to bring the property to B2 BER rating or better.

Noted by the Elected Members.

8.5 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

“How does Meath County Council decide where to put public rubbish bins in Meath?”

Response

The requirement for, and locations of, litter bins is decided at Municipal District level, and the decision is based on many factors such as local knowledge, nature of the public area, resources required to purchase and service the bin, access for council vehicles to service the bin and accessibility and mobility considerations for footpath users. Litter bins are generally not placed in housing estates as they are often used for household waste.

The placement of a litter bin incurs a lifetime of resource requirements to service, maintain and replace the bin. These resources include labour, vehicles and fuel, waste disposal costs, bin bag costs, the cost of the bin and the cost of its maintenance and replacement.

Noted by the Elected Members.

9 Notice of Motion

9.1 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole (deferred from October 2023 meeting)

“That all references to “developer-led” commentary in Meath County Council plans, policies and objectives be amended to include the wording “developer-led whilst prioritising the common good”.

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

The use of alternative wording in Meath County Council plans, policies and objectives requires careful consideration. Wording in a Development Plan is selected for a reason and changing the wording throughout a plan can change the context and meaning in

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

terms of the narrative, policy or objective. The developer led reference is a clear instruction to the developer of land, and the public, that they must ‘factor in’ and take the lead in terms of delivering specific pieces of infrastructure or amenity where the council are unlikely to/not able to deliver it on their own.

All “developer led” schemes are progressed in consultation with the Planning Authority and therefore, as when considering all proposed development within the county, the common good is a constant priority.

Councillor Gillian Toole introduced the motion. She noted that proper development and sustainable planning should take account of the common good.

Councillor Brian Fitzgerald dissented from the motion, noting that the proposal would increase the workload of the Planning Dept. and that most development was undertaken with the best interest of the general public.

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Gillian Toole** and seconded by **Councillor Helen Meyer** fell by a show of hands vote with 6 members in agreement, 12 members not in agreement and 1 member abstained.

9.2 Submitted by Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons

“In an effort to promote County Meath and help to bring more tourism to our county, I propose the motion to discuss the possibility of naming the greenway from Navan to Kingscourt as The Columban Way. This is an established European pilgrimage route known in Europe as ‘Via Columbani’ and has a strong connection with County Meath through the Columban Fathers and our twinned town of Bobbio in Italy.”

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

Subject to the Motion being approved and in accordance with Meath County Council’s Civic Commemoration Policy, the matter will be referred to the Commemoration Committee for consideration and recommendation, where appropriate, to the Protocol Committee.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Padraig Fitzsimons** and **seconded by Councillor Tommy Reilly**. **Councillor Fitzsimons** introduced the motion. He noted the tourism potential for the Greenway was similar to that of The Camino Way and The Wild Atlantic Way.

There were interventions from **Councillors Eugene Cassidy, Ronan Moore** and **David Gilroy**. It was noted that the Greenway was already named as the Boyne Valley to Lakelands Greenway and that a map of same had recently been launched by the Tourism Dept. There were queries regarding the

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

current proposals for the Columban Way project from Co. Carlow to Co. Down, the route of which would come through Co. Meath, although the exact route was yet to be finalised. **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons** withdrew the motion pending the outcome of the route selection of the Columban Way project.

9.3 Submitted by Councillor Paul McCabe

"To request that the Executive of this local authority engage at a senior level with the various utility companies regarding the ongoing maintenance and upgrade of chamber covers and manhole covers on public footpaths and roads that are damaged and pose a risk to the public and that a streamlined reporting system be developed."

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

Meath County Council engage with utility companies most frequently through the online MRL Road Opening Licencing System, authorization through this system includes proper reinstatement of any road opening. Separately, and where necessary, Meath County Council engage directly at a senior level with utility companies and their contractors where workmanship, compliance or health and safety falls below the acceptable standards. Repairs to ironmongery under the remit of Meath County Council are progressed through each MD.

Councillor Paul McCabe introduced the motion. He noted that there was no proper maintenance and repair scheme for manhole covers. He further noted the difficulties in communicating with the various utility companies responsible for the manhole covers.

There were interventions and queries from **Councillors Trevor Golden, Joe Bonner, Ronan Moore, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan, Michael Gallagher, Joe Fox** and **Gerry O'Connor**. Matters raised included the issue of liability, current reporting arrangements and sub-contractor responsibilities. Responses to queries raised were provided by Mr. Nicholas Whyatt. Mr. Whyatt also noted that the Council regularly meet with senior staff of the utility companies and he would raise the matter at their next meeting.

The Motion proposed by **Councillor Paul McCabe** and seconded by **Councillor Pdraig Fitzsimons** was agreed.

9.4 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

"To showcase Meath's unique heritage and artistic talent, that Meath County Council considers introducing a project similar to Dublin Canvas and establishing an art co-op to oversee the project."

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

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

The Arts Office will investigate the potential for the introduction of a scheme similar to Dublin Canvas in County Meath. This will be examined in the context of the County Arts Development Plan and the Creative Ireland Meath Culture & Creativity Strategy under Arts Office work programme Q. 1 2024.

Councillor Helen Meyer introduced the motion. She welcomed the response and noted the success of the programme in Dublin City. There were interventions from **Councillors Gillian Toole, Alan Tobin, Trevor Golden** and **Edward Fennessy**. It was noted that Dublin Canvas is operated privately and that tidy towns groups had previously sought to work with utility companies for a similar project.

Councillor Trevor Golden proposed an amendment which was seconded by **Councillor David Gilroy** and agreed as follows:

“To showcase Meath’s unique heritage and artistic talent, that Meath County Council considers introducing a project similar to Dublin Canvas by working with utility companies and establishing an art co-op to oversee the project.”

The motion as amended, proposed by **Councillor Helen Meyer** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** was agreed.

10 General Interest Motions

10.1 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

“To call on the Government to establish a National Flood Support Fund, for all homeowners affected by flooding not covered by insurance.”

Councillor Sharon Tolan introduced the Motion. She noted the recent flooding events in Bettystown and the difficulties in accessing the Humanitarian Assistance Scheme due to the current income bands. **Councillor Tolan** commended the Council staff for their dedication during the recent flooding events in Bettystown.

The Motion proposed by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O’Connor** was agreed.

10.2 Submitted by Councillor Sharon Tolan

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

“To call on the Minister for Education Norma Foley, to review the DEIS identification model as a matter of urgency, to ensure that all pupils who qualify for, have access to vital DEIS supports.”

Councillor Sharon Tolan introduced the Motion. She acknowledged the excellent programmes available in DEIS Schools, however, she noted that the assessment process for DEIS Schools hasn't changed in several years and that a child's address does not exemplify their socio-economic status.

There were interventions from **Councillors Nick Killian** and **Gerry O'Connor**. The difficulties associated with the motion for private schools was noted.

The Motion proposed by **Councillor Sharon Tolan** and seconded by **Councillor Gerry O'Connor** was agreed. **Councillor Nick Killian** abstained.

10.3 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin

“For Meath County Council to write to and ask Minister Ryan to support small & medium sized passenger transport businesses (private operators) to enable them to compete fairly with Transport for Ireland services that are subsidised to reduce fares by up to 20%.”

Councillor Alan Tobin introduced the Motion. He noted that private services could take up the additional capacity requirements that public services cannot currently meet for operational reasons.

There were interventions from **Councillors Joe Bonner, Nick Killian, Gillian Toole** and **Emer Toibin**. The current difficulties with the public bus system in the Rataoth and Ashbourne MDs was noted.

Councillor Gillian Toole proposed an amendment which was seconded by **Councillor Emer Toibin** and agreed as follows:

“For Meath County Council to write to Minister Ryan and the National Transport Authority to ask them to support small & medium sized passenger transport businesses (private operators) to enable them to compete fairly with Transport for Ireland services that are subsidised to reduce fares by up to 20%.”

The motion as amended, proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** was agreed.

10.4 Submitted by Councillor Helen Meyer

“The HSE currently offers chiropody services to those who meet specific criteria and to those who reside in certain counties. Meath County Council calls on the HSE to provide chiropody services to all who are eligible, in every county.”

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Councillor Helen Meyer introduced the Motion noting the current system should not be based on your address. There were interventions of support from **Councillors Joe Bonner** and **Gillian Toole**. **Councillor Gillian Toole** agreed to raise the matter at the next Regional Health Forum meeting.

The Motion proposed by **Councillor Helen Meyer** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** was agreed.

10.5 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden

“That Meath County Council calls on Transport Infrastructure Ireland to implement traffic management on motorways and arterial routes (M1, M2, N2, N3 and N4), in particular at points of congestion, as these areas pose a higher risk for road users.”

Councillor Trevor Golden introduced the Motion. He noted that the TII wouldn't commit to traffic measures that would impact all road users including public transport and pedestrians and cyclists that travel on main roads.

On the proposal of **An Cathaoirleach** and seconded by **Councillor Alan Tobin** it was agreed to write to TII to ask them to meet the Council urgently in relation to road transport issues in the County.

The Motion proposed by **Councillor Trevor Golden** and seconded by **Councillor David Gilroy** was agreed.

10.6 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher

“That Meath County Council writes to Eirgrid and Minister Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for Environment, Climate, Communications and Transport outlining our opposition to the construction of the over ground North South Interconnector.”

Councillor Michael Gallagher introduced the Motion. He noted that Eirgrid have continuously refused to consider the proposal to place the North South Interconnector underground. **Councillor Emer Toibin** supported the Motion.

The Motion proposed by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Helen Meyer** was agreed.

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

11.1 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Transportation

Noted by the Elected Members.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

11.2 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Environment

Councillor Nick Killian queried the details of AOO Numbers 21922/2023 and 21923/2023 in relation to the registration of a dog breeding establishment. Mr. Dara McGowan agreed to revert with the details of same.

Noted by the Elected Members.

11.3 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Housing

Noted by the Elected Members.

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

Noted by the Elected Members.

12 Any Other Business

Councillor Nick Killian noted the catastrophic situation in Gaza and he proposed that the Council write to the Government urging them to use all diplomatic channels at their disposal to support a ceasefire in Gaza. The proposal was seconded by **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald**.

Councillor Gillian Toole expressed her dissatisfaction at the Council's response to the impact of the current flight paths at Dublin Airport. There were interventions of support from **Councillors Joe Bonner** and **Alan Tobin**. **Councillor Toole** requested that the Council issue correspondence to the Elected Members confirming that Fingal County Council were the competent authority for such matters. Mr. Dara McGowan agreed to revert to the Members accordingly.

The meeting concluded at 5.45pm